

In *The Guardian* today: How did Daniel Joseph, diagnosed psychotic, slip through the system?

• Linda Grant • Interviews with Helen Baxendale and Jean Michel Jarre • Education pages • Appointments

Sketch

Political suicide by coloured ink



Simon Hoggart

Poor John Redwood. He tries so hard. It's unfair and untrue to suggest that he comes from another planet; he's a very familiar figure from Mother Earth. I see him working away in his lonely bedroom, polishing his speech, chuckling at his own jokes, hugging himself at his own cleverness.

I suspect that the original versions of his speeches are written in very small handwriting, with lots of exclamation marks and underlining. Then he emerges into the sunlight, and wonders why everything goes wrong. Yesterday he had worked out a brilliant ruse. He would take the debate on the problems of manufacturing industry, and cunningly turn it into a debate about the cash-for-contacts scandal.

I suspect what must have hurt most was the weary reproach of the Speaker, who had the air of a teacher near retirement who has often suffered the same clever wheeze, each time from a pupil who believes that he was the first person in history to think of it. Mr Redwood didn't best badly. His metaphors are not mixed, so much as whacked on the side of the head, so that they tend to stagger about in unexpected directions. "The Government stands Canute-like, claiming that the tide of lost jobs is not coming in."

How often does one have to repeat that King Canute knew that he couldn't stop the tide? In Hollis's story, it was his courtiers who said he could, so the fable is about their sycophancy, not his vanity. The King is the victim of a spin-doctoring disaster of Mandelsonian proportions.

Of course if back-benchers told Tony Blair that he could stop the tide, he would agree with them, blame 18 years of Tory lunacy and give

an early pledge that, thanks to New Labour, trends would be reversed within six hours. Barry Sheerman, himself a Labour backbencher, and not so much an old fogey as an old toady, blamed the "Thatcher and Major years".

Mr Redwood took time to baffle at this minuscule infraction of parliamentary etiquette: "He should have referred to my right honourable friend, the Member for Huntingdon, and not by the name he used?" Mr Redwood was beginning to lose control of his brain — a scary moment for any of us.

Even his attempt at candour fell flat. Denis MacShane (Lab, Rotherham) tried to trip him up by demanding how much he was paid "by Murray Financial, to undermine building societies and mutual assurance firms".

Most MPs would start flanneling at this. Instead Mr Redwood boldly announced that he received £12,000 a year "which is a modest director's fee". Oh dear, not in Rotherham it isn't. Some people there would be glad to get that for their only job.

Then he veered off on to lobbyists. This was the crony economy, he said, following up with a crafty link with manufacturing industry.

Businesses in trouble could make themselves heard only by hiring a lobbyist. So, who owned the GPC Market Access Group?

"You do seem to have got a long way from the motion," said Betty Boothroyd, who can spot a filibuster the way a sniffer dog would detect Hazel Gummidge with a kipper. "I will of course speak to the motion," he said, returning to lobbyists.

"I will give him two more minutes," said the Speaker. Mr Redwood ploughed onward with some good material about the lobbyists' smelly undergrowth, stuff better saved for Mr Hague tomorrow. Finally Betty shut him up. The debate was a disgrace.

Her constituents were worried about industry's failure, and he would make sure they saw Hansard. Finally Mr Redwood shut up about lobbyists, and announced Six Points to save our industry. I bet he'd written each one out in a different coloured ink.

Review

Mellow alternative to Motty and Des

Adam Sweeting

Jerry Seinfeld
London Palladium

PACING the empty expanse of the Palladium stage, armed only with a stool and a glass of water, Jerry Seinfeld looked ostentatiously at his watch. "You've still got time to see the football," he assured us, in a tone of fake solicitude. He knows that in Seinfeld-world, he's the only thing that matters. Besides, a large percentage of the crowd were Americans who cared as little about the World Cup as the star himself.

This had already been noted by his support act, Mario Joyner. "There used to be a time when white people were on time," grumbled Afro-American Mario, to some late-arriving Scots. "Any Americans here? See, they had to come further but they got here on time."

For those brave enough to drag themselves away from Motty and Des, the Jerry Seinfeld Show offered a surprisingly mellow alternative. According to British tradition, when television comics venture into the free-fire zone of live performance, they reveal hitherto unsuspected sides of their personality, along with a terrifying new vocabulary. But Seinfeld was unfailingly civilised and decorous, choosing simple targets that nobody could fail to recognise.

Visits to the supermarket, going to the doctor, men's inability to comprehend women, junk TV, McDonald's hamburgers, and the Olympic Games were all held up to mild ridicule and elegantly spun whimsy.

He made a couple of forays

into the prickly minefield of sex, but only in the best possible taste. His admission that he likes to pry into what women do in their bathrooms merely, and disappointingly, led to a dissertation about how women manage to get through such vast quantities of cotton wool balls.

He was better on men's inability to comprehend the female orgasm. For men, Seinfeld assured us, sex is like a car crash. "I remember at one point I was facing the wrong way. Then I was thrown clear."

But he has worked painstakingly on tone and pacing. There may be passages which are short of screaming gags, but Seinfeld manages not to bore you because he has a gift for stringing you along with his cunningly plausible conversational tone, then making sharp turns so deftly that it takes a moment to catch up.

Take his opening remarks, for example: "I tell you what I like about the Chinese people. They're hangin' in there with the chopsticks. Even though we know they've seen the spoon..."

Still, you could spot the join between the well-rehearsed act and the spontaneous moments. For encores, he fielded questions from the house with peerless unflappability ("How tall am I? What's the number you're looking for?") and also confessed that he has no plans to make another sitcom. His most inspired moment was a barbed reference to Drumcree — "They're celebrating a victory from the year seven hundred and what? The game is over" — which won him a spontaneous ovation.

Not a comic revolution, but an old-fashioned professional. Do we not like that?

This review appeared in later editions of yesterday's paper

Orangemen's Drumcree protest loses steam as thousands stay away □ Newry car bomb defused

Two held over fire deaths

John Mullin
Ireland Correspondent

POLICE in Northern Ireland were last night questioning two men about the triple murder of three young brothers at their home in Ballymoney, Co Antrim, early on Sunday.

The arrests in north Antrim came as Portadown Orangemen defied opinion across Northern Ireland to continue their protest at Drumcree Church. The stand-off is entering its 10th day, but numbers are dwindling.

Organisers had hoped that up to 100,000 Orangemen would converge on Drumcree last night after their annual

Battle of the Boyne commemorations. They stayed away, and the protest appeared to be running out of steam.

David Jones, spokesman for the Portadown Orangemen, vowed that they would stay until they were allowed to march down the nationalist Garvaghy Road. He said: "We are going to be here longer than we had hoped, but we are here."

The protesters are ignoring the advice of William Bingham, chaplain to the Co Armagh Orange Order, David Trimble, first minister and an Orangeman, and Robin Eames, Primate of the Church of Ireland, all of whom called on them to go home.

But Tony Blair's official spokesman said: "It was clear

after the murder that an awful lot of people did reflect on what is happening. It is absolutely appalling that it should take that to make people see where they potentially were heading."

Elsewhere there was a stark reminder of the threat to the stability of the new political arrangements. Dissident republicans, behind the failed attack on London four days ago, dumped a 500lb car bomb outside the courthouse in Newry. The army defused the device.

The RUC reiterated its view that Protestant arsonists were responsible for the Ballymoney house fire in which Richard, Mark and Jason Quinn, aged 11, nine and eight, died as tensions in-

creased over Drumcree. Police believe that the fire-bombers targeted the boy's mother, Chrissie Quinn, aged 28, because she was a Catholic living on the loyalist Carnarvon estate. The boys attended a Protestant school, but their funeral will be in the town's Catholic church.

Both the Orange Order and Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, justifying the decision of the Portadown lodge to continue its stand-off, hinted at other reasons. Harold Gracey, district master of Portadown, said Ronnie Flanagan, the chief constable, would soon have to issue an apology.

Mrs Quinn's estranged husband was kidnapped by the Ulster Freedom Fighters two

years ago in what is believed to have been a drugs-related dispute.

Mr Paisley said: "The IRA carried out far worse murders than we had at Ballymoney over and over again. No one ever said to them even to call off their crimes and now they are received as acceptable democratic politicians."

One Catholic, who asked for her name to be withheld, was quitting the Carnarvon estate after receiving a bullet through the post on Saturday. A removal van was loaded up her belongings. She said: "I am so afraid. I have been here for 17 years and I brought my four weans up here. There have never been any problems until now."

Orangemen were split over whether the protest at Drumcree should continue. It boiled into violence at a rally in Pomeroy, Co Tyrone.

Mr Bingham was heckled after telling fellow Orangemen the protest should end. Joel Patton, leader of the headline Spirit of Drumcree Group, said that Mr Bingham had stabbed Orangemen in the back.

But the flashpoint Orange parade along the nationalist Lower Ormeau Road in south Belfast passed off without incident. It was delayed by hoax bomb calls, and the residents mounted a silent protest.

Living in fear, page 8; Hugo Young, page 8; Letters, page 9

Rusty drill op makes GP hero of the outback

Christopher Zinn in Sydney

AN ENGLISH doctor became a hero on his first day's duty in Australia's outback when he used a rusty brace-and-bit drill to perform makeshift brain surgery and save a football player's life.

Steve Hindley, who used to practice in Bodmin, Cornwall, had just arrived in the dusty West Australian town of Ravensthorpe when he was forced to resort to bush medicine to relieve pressure on the injured sportsman's brain.

"He needed to have a hole drilled in his head and I care less how we did it. We had to do it and do it quickly," Dr Hindley said last night.

The 41-year-old GP's patient was Aussie Rules forward Hayden McGinnis, 23, who was brought into the 10-bed local hospital suffering from concussion after an on-field collision.

Dr Hindley phoned a neurosurgery unit in Perth, 600 miles away, and was advised to find a hand drill to bore through Hayden's temple and drain the blood pressing on his brain.

The tiny hospital had nothing suitable so fellow footballers and Hayden's girlfriend, Dinah Hallam, searched the two-horse town for a suitable tool.

They found an old brace and bit in the school garden shed. "It was a very, very medieval looking drill," said Ms Hallam.

The drill was sterilised and Dr Hindley performed "burr-hole" surgery. "I knew how to do it and I went over the procedure on the telephone with a neurosurgeon," he said.

Hayden, who was unconscious and was having trouble breathing, was flown to Perth by the Royal Flying Doctor Service. Surgeons there removed more blood clots and said he would almost certainly have died if it had not been for Dr Hindley's emergency surgery.

News spread slowly from remote areas and word of the operation two weeks ago has only just reached the outside world.



British GP Steve Hindley with his wife, Sue, and children... his life-saving operation with rusty brace and bit made him an Australian hero on his first day in the outback

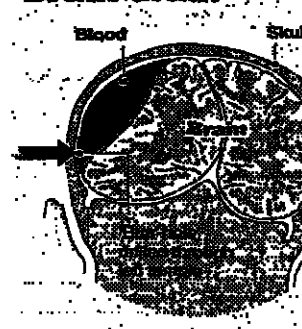
Last night Dr Hindley was back in Ravensthorpe Hospital.

"I've seen this kind of head injury before," he said. "Many casualty officers see serious head injuries... you just never actually have to do the whole thing yourself in a British hospital."

In Bodmin, his wife, Sue, a maths teacher, said: "It's not the sort of thing you get to do in general practice, but it's just the sort of frontier medicine he wanted to practice. Stephen has been a GP for seven years and has grown tired of pushing paper and handing out pills to little old ladies."

Dr Hindley will be joined by his wife and children in two weeks time in Tasmania, where they plan to live. In Perth, Hayden is recovering but remembers nothing of the operation. "I won't be playing footy again probably," he said. "I'm really quite disappointed, but at the same time I'm glad to be alive."

Brain drain



Brain medicine

- Australian Radio Hospital player collapses after hit collection with another player.
- The injury after a rugby scrum built up inside a scrum as a result of a scrum.
- Doctor uses a rusty bit and brace to perform a "burr-hole" operation. He drilled through the patient's temple and drained the blood pressing on the brain.

Perils of home coking

Dan Glatzer
Arts Correspondent

DON'T try "coking" at home — it could prove dangerous, messy and very expensive. English National Opera yesterday faced a legal bill of £11,000 after it was found to have acted negligently in spraying the floor of a rehearsal room with Coca-Cola.

The practice, to make the floor sticky and thus improve traction for dancers, led an opera singer to twist her knee in rehearsal and left her in pain for two years.

"very simple pivot" when practicing a dance routine for a production of Purcell's *The Fairy Queen*, singer Janis Kelly "slipped" to the floor and felt a ripping sensation in her knee. She did not know of the practice of coking until a stagehand explained it to her after the incident.

In November last year the Central London county court found that the ENO had acted negligently in coking the floor and awarded Ms Kelly £11,000 in damages. But the ENO took the case to the Court of Appeal, accusing Ms Kelly, whose career spans 20 years, of being "unreliable and prone to gilding the lily".

Lord Justice Buxton, dismissing the appeal, said Ms Kelly was an honest witness. He said the routine for *The Fairy Queen* was "straightforward" and there was no reason to think it was not within her capabilities.

After the hearing the singer said: "This case has gone on for a very long time and I am glad it's all over now. The accident did not stop me from working but I was in pain for two years."

Ms Kelly, who was born in Glasgow and lives in north London, is now rehearsing for Mozart's *La Finta Semplice* which will be performed at the Buxton Music Festival.

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Woman registered with social services denies murdering five-month-old baby boy who had been in her care with his sister for five days

Minder 'shook baby to death'

Luke Harding

A CHILDMINDER shook to death a five-month-old baby boy in her care after losing her temper, leaving him "floppy like a rag doll", a court heard yesterday.

Helen Stacey flung Joseph Mackin on to a cot mattress or sofa, causing him fatal brain damage, it was claimed. She had only begun looking after him five days earlier. Stacey, aged 41, who has four children of her own, denies murder.

The jury at Norwich crown court was told that when Joseph's father, Anthony, arrived at Stacey's home in North Walsham, Norfolk, in May 1997 to collect his son, he found him sitting in his chair, scarcely breathing.

"He was very slaty grey in the face. His eyes were quite dark. The skin around his eyes was quite dark and there was a blue tinge to his lips," Mr Mackin said.

"I asked if he was breathing. As soon as I saw him I

knew there was something dreadfully wrong. He was just like a rag doll. He was very floppy," he said. "He was obviously, as far as I was concerned, seriously ill."

Mr Mackin said when he dropped Joseph off that morning he was "perfectly happy", and described his son as a "very happy baby" and a "little, happy, smiley boy".

But when he went to collect him at 5.15pm he was confronted by a "nervous" Stacey who was wringing her hands, the court was told.

"She had said Joseph was being a bit snuffy and grizzly. She appeared to me to be very nervous. I found it odd," Mr Mackin said.

When he discovered his son was not breathing, Mr Mackin drove Joseph to a nearby GP's surgery. The baby was then taken to hospital. But doctors could find no sign of life and concluded Joseph had died shortly after being injured. He was pronounced dead at 6pm.

Pathologists who examined his body that evening discovered that his death was not accidental, it was claimed.



Tests showed that he had suffered a brain injury which was consistent with him being shaken. Joseph's mother, Corinna, aged 36, a hospital nursing as-

stant, described how she last saw her son when she left for work at around 6.30am on the morning of his death. "He was fine, his usual self," she said. "He was kicking about,

making cooing noises like he usually did. He was lying in the cot, looking at his mobile," she said. Mrs Mackin and her 32-year-old husband, a civilian



Joseph Mackin (left) who was allegedly murdered by registered childminder, Helen Stacey, in May 1997. The baby's parents, Anthony and Corinna, arriving at Norwich crown court yesterday. (Right) Stacey, a mother-of-four who pleads not guilty to Joseph's murder at her home in North Walsham, Norfolk

air traffic controller at RAF Coltishall, Norfolk, had placed Joseph with Stacey only five days earlier, the jury of eight women and four men was told.

They contacted her after looking through a directory of registered childminders provided by Norfolk county council social services.

Stacey, who lives with her husband, John, embarked on a childminding career following the birth of her daughter in August 1996 — and was approved by social workers four months later.

She began looking after Joseph, with the Mackin's daughter Samantha, now

three, on May 8, 1997, five days before his death.

David Stokes QC, prosecuting, said that when they were dropped off at around 7am Joseph was healthy. "At sometime during that day there was an incident in which this defendant lost her temper with the child and shook it, causing fatal injury," he said.

The cause of death was injuries to the head consistent with shaking, or shaking plus an impact.

Told of his death in the evening, Stacey described herself as "gobsmacked". Four days later she was arrested. In interviews with police she de-

nied injuring Joseph and complained he had been "grizzly" all day with "rolling" eyes.

The childminder then tried to "save herself" by telling detectives Joseph's parents were to blame for his death. "Her behaviour was that of somebody with a guilty conscience," Mr Stokes said.

Nicholas Coleman, a paediatric pathologist at Addenbrooke's hospital, Cambridge, said blood around Joseph's brain showed categorically that he had died from a shaking injury. There was no sign of any natural cause of death, he added.

The trial continues.



Emma Humphreys, who was released from prison after 10 years, has died at the age of 30. She became a cause célèbre for women's groups.

Emma Humphreys dies

Nick Hopkins

A WOMAN whose fight against a murder conviction changed the way courts regard the defence of provocation for battered partners, has died aged 30.

Emma Humphreys, who had been suffering from anorexia, was found in her flat in London on Saturday morning. She had been severely ill for several months.

Ms Humphreys's campaign to quash her murder conviction became a cause célèbre for women's groups. Born into poverty in Dolgellau in Wales where she was abused by her alcoholic stepfather, Ms Humphreys was jailed at Nottingham crown court in 1985 for the murder of her boyfriend, Trevor Armitage.

At the time, she was working as a prostitute and Mr Armitage, who had convictions for grievous bodily

harm and assault, had been one of her regular clients. Ms Humphreys said Mr Armitage became increasingly jealous, beating her regularly and raping her. She killed him with a single stab wound on February 25, 1985, because he flew into a rage and she believed he was about to attack her again.

After initially abandoning her right to appeal, Ms Humphreys challenged the conviction on the grounds of long term provocation. Three years ago the Court of Appeal reduced her conviction to manslaughter. She served two years in prison for the murder conviction so she could launch the appeal.

Ms Humphreys found it almost impossible to settle

into life outside prison. She overdosed on drugs on several occasions, and her weight dropped to four stones.

Jill Bindel, a spokeswoman for the pressure group Justice for Women, said: "Women owe a debt to her courage and determination."

A battered woman who stabbed her violent partner to death had her sentence for manslaughter reduced at the Court of Appeal yesterday, writes Amelia Gwynne.

Patricia Gallagher, 37, killed Michael Holliday in January 1997 as he tried to throttle her 16-year-old son.

Ms Gallagher has already served nine months of her three-and-a-half year sentence. Lord Justice Otton reduced the sentence to two years, which means she will be free within three months.

Obituary, page 10

McKenna sued over hypnosis volunteer's mental illness

Nick Hopkins

THE hypnotist Paul McKenna left a theatre-goer with severe psychological problems after submitting him during a live show, the High Court heard yesterday.

Christopher Gates, 30, turned into a "frightened and aggressive schizophrenic" within nine days of the performance four years ago.

Mr Gates volunteered to be put in a trance and was made to believe he was a ballet dancer, Rolling Stone Mick Jagger, an interpreter for aliens from outer space, a contestant on Blind Date, an orchestra conductor and a naughty schoolboy.

But when he "woke up" from the spell, his mental health deteriorated. After a week of increasingly erratic behaviour, he was admitted to hospital with delusions that "God" was coming to get him, and has not worked since.

Mr Gates, of Downley, High Wycombe, is suing Mr McKenna for £200,000 damages, claiming the entertainer was reckless and negligent.

His QC, Mr Anthony Scrivenor said: "The defendant has no medical qualifications and no formal hypnotherapy qualifications, but holds himself out as an expert."

Mr Scrivenor said the hypnotist said the hypnosis was a normal working man with no history of mental instability when he went to Mr McKenna's show at the Swan Theatre in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, on March 10, 1994, with his girlfriend Beverly Gibbs.

Apart from the role-playing games, Mr Gates reacted to suggestions that he was frightened of brooms, was walking on the moon and had special glasses to see people naked.

Mr Scrivenor said Ms Gibbs noticed changes in her boyfriend's demeanour as soon as the show had finished. She said that he seemed strangely quiet, couldn't sleep, and remembered nothing of his part in the performance.

The day after the show, Mr Gates supervisor at work noted that he was unusually aggressive and irritable. He giggled when he was told the company was making redundancies.

The court heard that Mr Gates "laughed hysterically and totally inappropriately" when he went to a Freddie Starr show, and began muttering that something in his head was destroying him.

Mr Scrivenor said Mr Gates was afraid to go to sleep because he thought he would



Hypnotist Paul McKenna arrives at the High Court where he is being sued over a live performance

die, and had to be cuddled constantly.

In a panic, Ms Gibbs rang Mr McKenna, and he agreed to speak to Mr Gates, the court heard.

The hypnotist told her he had "spoken to both concepts of his mind, the angry and the scared concepts, and concluded that Mr Gates needed help from a therapist".

Mr Scrivenor told Mr Justice Toulson that Mr Gates was admitted to hospital on March 19 suffering from an acute schizophrenic episode and stayed there until April 13.

Mr McKenna had offered to see him, but a doctor advised he should stay away "because enough damage had been done already", the hearing heard.

Mr Gates was taken off medication after six months, but had to go back on drugs when paranoid symptoms returned, and he exhibited childlike behaviour.

Mr Scrivenor said Mr McKenna became interested in hypnosis in 1986 and realised it had huge business and entertainment potential.

Apart from his shows, Mr Scrivenor described how he gave lectures on the topic and provided hypnotherapy for private clients, including celebrities, and produced tapes designed to help people succeed.

Mr Scrivenor said Mr McKenna, a member of the Federation of Ethical Stage Hypnotists, must have been aware that hypnosis was not an exact science, and that it could be dangerous when used as entertainment without the usual consulting room safeguards.

Mr McKenna, of Kensington, west London, denies negligence and contends Mr Gates's illness was not caused by hypnosis.

The hearing continues.

Police called in to solve death of Stone Age man

Pc to take fingerprint and swab equipment into Orkney underground tomb undisturbed for 5,000 years

Maev Kennedy
Heritage Correspondent

A STRATHCLYDE police officer will today reopen a very old case — a death which occurred more than 5,000 years ago.

Pc David Thurlay will be the first person to enter an underground tomb on Orkney since Stone Age man abandoned the site. The tomb is undisturbed, a rare archaeological find.

Archaeologists from Glasgow university have borrowed Pc Thurlay from Strathclyde police force, in what is believed to be a unique collaboration.

They have previously worked with the police, dating bones and analysing finds on several cases including murders. Strathclyde is now repaying the favour by sending Pc Thurlay

to Orkney with his scene of crime kit.

Alan Leale, of the university archaeology unit, described the combination as "a dream team".

Pc Thurlay will treat it as he does any of the murders and robberies he investigates, creating a sterile environment in which all evidence is recorded meticulously as found, before the archaeologists

clamber in. All the resources of his scene of crime kit, including adhesive and electrostatic tapes to take fingerprints and fibres, as well as swabs, scalpels and tweezers, will be used. The archaeologists hope to discover human remains, and evidence of the tomb builders and burial rituals.

The tomb at Crantit, near Kirkwall, was discovered by chance in April by farmer Dennis Bichan, who

was ploughing when a hole opened up in his field. A video camera was lowered into what proved to be a hole in the roof of small rectangular square chamber.

Stone Age Orkney supported a thriving population of fishermen and farmers, who left world famous monuments, including the huge stone burial mound at Maeshowe, and the house sites at Skara Brae complete with built-in stone beds and cupboards.

Vikings who took shelter from a storm centuries later in the Maeshowe burial chamber left runic graffiti describing a great treasure in gold. Since they also described the dragon they slew to obtain it, archaeologists are sceptical, and have no such hopes for the Crantit tomb.

"This is a comparatively modest monument," Dr Leale said. "But the fact that it is apparently undisturbed and intact is very exciting — it's the nearest any of us are going to come to the tomb of Tutankhamun."

Gamekeeper 'recorded his 127 badger killings'

Helen Carter

A GAMEKEEPER accused of killing 127 badgers kept a book chronicling their deaths and the shootings of cats and dogs and protected birds of prey, a court was told yesterday.

Leslie Morris, who was working for the Bradenham Hill Shooting Syndicate, denies four counts of killing a badger and one charge of killing an unknown number of badgers, a sparrowhawk and buzzard on land owned by Sir Francis Dashwood in West Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

Mr Morris, aged 29, denies all charges at High Wycombe magistrates' court, which include interfering with a badger's sett, setting a trap for foxes, and two charges of failing to comply with firearms certificates.

When RSPCA inspectors raided his cottage in Downley Common, Buckinghamshire, they found The Country

Sportsman's Record Book and Journal, which detailed how up to 127 badgers had been killed over six years.

According to the book, during the 1996-97 season he killed 92 badgers, and two dogs and 21 cats were shot as vermin. Other entries revealed that a total of 40 cats and a grey heron had been killed between 1993 and 1996.

Mr Morris wrote "lost count" against an entry for numbers of birds of prey killed.

RSPCA inspectors also found snares and traps on the Dashwood estate.

Jason Runciman, former underkeeper at the shooting syndicate, said he was sickened when he saw Morris damage a badger sett. "I saw him pour creosote down the hole of the badger sett. He also stuffed chicken wire down the hole to block it," he said. On another occasion, Morris ordered him to shoot a badger. "Leslie told me to shoot it, but I took it to the far end of the wood and let it out."

I then fired a shot off," he said. Mr Runciman, who has worked as a milkman since leaving his job in June 1997, had also been told by Morris to set snares in badger runs next to their setts but had refused.

Mr Morris allegedly told him that he shot birds of prey and snared badgers. "I don't know why he did it, I think he enjoyed it," he said. On another occasion, Mr Runciman said, traps intended for use on squirrels had been set for a fox and her cubs and after she had been shot, the cubs were taken to a kennels and ripped apart by terriers.

David Williams, defending, said Mr Runciman's claims were borne out of a grudge. "I suggest this is pure malice on your part," he said. "I put it to you the whole of your evidence is tainted by trying to get at the shoot and at Mr Morris."

Mr Runciman denied he had made up any evidence. The hearing continues.

Single appeal aims to ease backlog and end abuse

Straw streamlines asylum decisions

Alan Travis
Home Affairs Editor

MORE than 4,500 failed asylum seekers who face deportation each year are to lose their right to a legal appeal, under a streamlining of the system unveiled by the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, yesterday.

Ministers also want asylum seekers to leave London where the immigration tribunals face mounting backlogs, and travel to Leeds or Glasgow to have their cases heard.

Although many lack money to pay for travel, Home Office ministers believe that genuine seekers would not refuse to have their cases heard in the North or Scotland.

The proposals published yesterday form the first plank of a major overhaul to be detailed later this month.

Mr Straw said yesterday he wanted to end the two tier system of asylum appeals — the first hearing against the decision, and the second

against deportation — because the system had become overwhelmed with numbers and abused by people spinning out their cases. "What we are proposing is a single right of appeal where cases are finally determined within six months at the most," said the Home Secretary.

He also hopes to curb the rising number of High Court applications for judicial review of immigration tribunal cases — they doubled to 1,748 between 1994 and 1996. He wants to limit such applications on written papers alone. Similarly they are looking at the need to give every failed asylum seeker a full written explanation.

Mr Straw said he intended to replace the system of deportations for many failed

asylum seekers with a new procedure of "administrative removals". The difference would be that there will be no right of appeal before being removed, as those thrown out will not be barred from applying to re-enter within three years, as is now the case for those officially deported.

The proposals disappointed the Refugee Council, immigration welfare organisations, and Amnesty International. Nick Hardwick, the council's chief executive, said it was wrong to see the problem as asylum seekers stringing out appeals; there was strong evidence that the majority of adjournments were outside their control. However, while he was concerned at ending oral hearings, there were some positive ideas like the consolidated appeal.

Claude Morae of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants said the package failed to challenge the underlying "culture of disbelief" in the way the Home Office dealt with asylum applications.

Mr Scrivenor said Mr McKenna was afraid to go to sleep because he thought he would

News in brief

Berlusconi gets new corruption jail term

SILVIO BERLUSCONI, the former Italian prime minister, was sentenced yesterday to two years and four months in prison for illegal party financing.

The ruling by a judge in Milan is the third against the leader of the country's opposition in eight months. He was given a three-year sentence last week for bribing tax inspectors and a 18-month term in December for false accounting.

However, Berlusconi, aged 61, will not go to jail yet because a long appeals process must uphold the sentences. As an MP, he cannot be jailed without parliamentary approval until a definitive sentence is made — a procedure that could take years.

The media mogul was convicted for his part in channelling \$8 million to the former prime minister Bettino Craxi and the now defunct Socialist Party in the early 1990s. He was also fined \$2.5 million.

Craxi was among 10 other defendants in the so-called All-Iberian trial, named after the company through which part of the funds were channelled. He received a four-year sentence, was fined \$7 million and banned from public office for four years.

Berlusconi's supporters in his centre-right Freedom Alliance opposition condemned the verdict as part of a witch-hunt. He faces another trial later this year for false accounting and five more for tax fraud and corruption. — Reuters, Milan

Talks collapse in GM strike

TALKS between General Motors management and the striking United Auto Workers union collapsed yesterday, taking the strike into its fifth full week. Negotiations at GM's headquarters in Flint, Michigan, had aimed to settle the dispute before the end of the car giant's two-week summer holiday yesterday. The failure means that the company's 26 assembly plants and more than 100 parts suppliers remain closed, with more than 182,000 workers laid off. The dispute centres on UAW allegations that GM has failed to make agreed investments at its Flint metal-casting division. — Martin Kettle, Washington

Belarus anger at travel ban

ALEXANDER LUKASHENKO, the president of Belarus, yesterday reacted angrily after the European Union refused him, fellow ministers and senior officials visas to travel in Europe.

Mr Lukashenko accused Wolfgang Schüssel, Austria's foreign minister, representing the EU presidency, of forgetting he was addressing a head of state and demanded the "full understanding" of the EU.

About 130 named Belarusian officials came under the ban on visas which follows Mr Lukashenko's decision to close down ambassadorial residences in Minsk. — Stephen Bates, Brussels

Taliban advances on rebels

AFGHANISTAN'S Taliban army continued its advance on the opposition's strongholds yesterday after capturing a key province.

A senior Taliban official said his troops were heading into the northern province of Faryab and its capital, Sheberghan, where the opposition leader General Abdul Rashid Dostam has his headquarters.

Western sources, who did not want to be identified, confirmed that the Taliban had taken Faryab province.

Mullah Abdul Mutimayyan said from the Taliban's southern base that his soldiers had advanced 15 miles after heavy fighting on Sunday and yesterday.

"There are a lot of dead bodies around the fighting area," Mr Mutimayyan said. "We don't know the exact number, but we can say a lot." He added that the Taliban's big breakthrough came on Saturday when troops crashed through the opposition's front line.

"When they lost their front line, they lost their morale."

Gen Dostam's opposition, which holds about 15 per cent of the country and is trying to resist the Taliban's fundamentalist rule, said it had launched a counter-offensive in Faryab. — AP, Kabul

Clash over ancient graves



Israeli riot police lead an ultra-Orthodox rabbi, fearing the desecration of Jewish graves, from a construction site where ancient tombs have been discovered. PHOTOGRAPH: AP/WIDEWORLD

Pilots escape Italian justice

AN ITALIAN judge yesterday dismissed the case against the crew of the US army jet that sliced a ski-lift cable in the Alps. Twenty people died in February's disaster but judge Carlo Ancona ruled in Trento that Italian courts had no jurisdiction.

The US has claimed jurisdiction in the case under a Nato treaty. But prosecutors have defied their government in Rome by pressing for manslaughter charges to be heard in Italy. They claim that the Prowler jet violated Nato flight patterns and should be treated as a US mission. — AP, Trento

Moth returns to bright lights

ONE of the world's most spectacular insects is set to return to the New York night, decades after being driven out by pesticides and the bright lights of the big city.

Several hundred luna moths, which have pale green wings spanning more than four inches, will be released in Central Park on Monday as part of a project to reintroduce species to their habitat. The scheme will also see the return of screech owls and short-tailed weasels. — New York Times

'God can save you' media blitz by US Christian groups angers gay activists

Alan Elsner in Washington

A FULL-PAGE advertisement in the New York Times yesterday that said homosexuals could "overcome" their sexual identity by accepting God has sparked outrage among gay rights supporters.

The Christian Coalition and other conservative groups took out the advertisement. It is to be followed this week by ads in the Washington Post and USA Today.

The advertisement features the testimony of Anne Paulk, a "wife, mother and former lesbian", who says she was able to change her identity through a commitment to religion.

"Leaving homosexuality was the hardest thing I've ever had to do," Ms Paulk says in the advertisement.

"As I grew in my relationship with God, I knew He had changed me forever. Gone was the hardness. Gone was the hurt. And gone was the shrill cry inside, replaced by God's still, small voice."

Tracey Canady of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force said her organisation saw the advertising campaign as a new attack on homosexuality. "The bigotry, hatred and intolerance that this ad represents is the real perversion," she said.

Homosexuality has become a hot political issue in the United States after the Republican majority leader in the

Senate, Trent Lott, compared it to alcoholism, sex addiction and kleptomania.

Asked in a television interview if he believed homosexuality was a sin, he replied, "It is."

"In America right now there's an element that wants to make that alternative lifestyle acceptable and normal," he said. "You should still love the person. You should show them a way to deal with that problem."

Mr Lott added: "Just like my father having a problem with alcohol, other people have sex addiction. Other people are kleptomaniacs."

Republicans in Congress are blocking the confirmation of James Horne, nominated by President Bill Clinton to

be US ambassador to Luxembourg, because he is openly gay. The White House says it is appalled at moves to block an administrative order barring discrimination against homosexuals in federal jobs.

The Christian Coalition, a powerful bloc within the Republican Party and the best known of 18 organisations sponsoring the advertising campaign, said the adverts were intended as messages of hope for homosexuals.

"Christian Coalition has energised people of faith to become involved in the political process and have an effect on public policy, but has also long maintained that America's most serious problems ultimately require changes in the heart of individuals. Religi-

ous faith plays a central role in that change," the organisation said in a statement.

Other groups sponsoring the campaign include Concerned Women for America and the Family Research Council, headed by a conservative activist, Gary Bauer.

Describing her path from homosexuality, Ms Paulk says in the advert: "I met a Christian woman, a former lesbian, who listened patiently to my story and led me to a ministry helping people overcome homosexuality."

"Because they loved me without judgment, I was able finally to give all my relationships with God and begin the real road to healing," she says. — Reuters



Trent Lott: Compared the 'sin' of homosexuality to alcoholism and kleptomania

Killing of JFK out on home video

Martin Kettle on a brutal 26 seconds

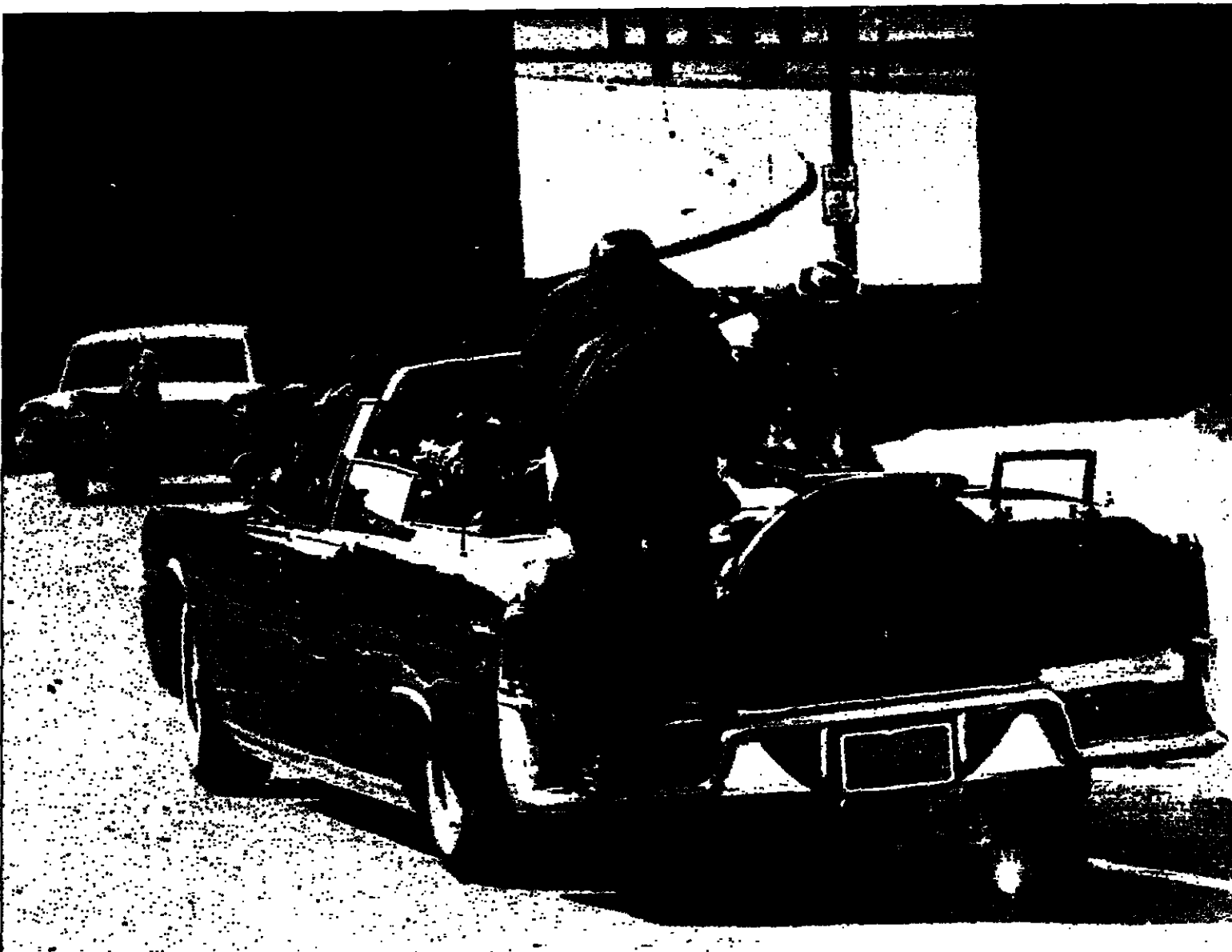
ONE OF the most shocking pieces of amateur film footage ever taken went on sale today for the first time in the United States as a video. Americans can now sit in their homes and watch digitally enhanced film of the top of President John F. Kennedy's head being blown off by an assassin's bullet.

The 26 seconds of footage, taken by a Dallas dress salesman, Abraham Zapruder, in Dealey Plaza on November 22 1963, offer a unique record of one of the most traumatic events of the second half of the 20th century.

The video, entitled Image of an Assassination, and retailing at \$19.98 (about £12), is 45 minutes long. It consists of a 40-minute account of the history of the film and six separate showings of the fatal moments as recorded by Zapruder on his hand-held 8mm Bell & Howell Zoomatic cinecamera.

The original film, kept in the US national archives in Washington since 1978, has been digitally enhanced and is clearer than the original version.

Zapruder shot the film from the foot of the celebrated "grassy knoll" and then took it to a local televi-



One of the images of the 1963 Kennedy assassination.

PHOTOGRAPH: JAMES KE ALTONES

sion station to be developed. Interviewed later that day, he said: "I saw his head practically open up, all blood and everything. And I kept on shooting." He died from cancer in 1970.

His family have dismissed suggestions that they are trying to profit from the assassination.

They say they no longer want the responsibility of deciding who has access to the film and for how much, and that they need to recoup the estimated

\$350,000 they have spent on preserving and administering the film for 35 years.

Waleed AH, executive producer of MPI Home Video, the company behind the new video, said: "It's shocking. It's vulgar. It's even disgusting. But it's something that I think the American people should see."

For years after it was shot, the film was kept under lock and key because the government and Time-Life, to whom Zapruder sold the initial rights for

\$50,000, believed the frames showing the head wound were too shocking for public viewing.

However, the film became widely available in bootleg form, and was first shown in 1975 on late-night ABC television. It played an integral part in Oliver Stone's 1992 Kennedy conspiracy theory movie, JFK.

Time-Life sold the film back to a Zapruder family company, LMH Co, in 1975 for a token payment of \$1. The family is now negotiat-

ing with the justice department to sell the film and its copyright to the federal government.

The Zapruders are asking for \$18.5 million; the government has offered \$3 million.

The previous tight controls on the film, and the fact that parts of it were withheld, inevitably led to speculation that it contradicted the official account of the assassination. The 1964 Warren Report concluded that Lee Harvey Os-

wald fired all the shots at Kennedy from a building behind the motorcade.

One expert on the assassination, George Evica, says the frames showing blood and fragments of Kennedy's brain and skull falling backwards behind him were proof that he was hit from the front.

If his theory were ever to be shown to be correct, it would prove Oswald could not have acted alone, and that Kennedy was the victim of a conspiracy.

'Average' couple leave millions to academia

Joanna Coles in New York on a secret fortune born out of one canny investment

TWO FRIENDS and relations, Donald and Mildred Othmer seemed the epitome of the American dream. From humble beginnings they secured good jobs, she as a teacher and buyer for her mother's dress business, he as professor of chemical en-

gineering at Brooklyn's Polytechnic University. With no children, they concentrated on what they loved, their work. He was granted scores of chemical patents and colleagues assumed they had put a little by for their retirement.

Indeed they had. Though it was rather more than the average couple dreams of. For the Othmers had, in the early 1970s, invested \$25,000 (\$15,000) each with an old friend from Omaha.

The friend's name was Warren Buffett, now America's second-richest man after Bill Gates. And the Othmers' savings grew to \$750 million.

The size of their fortune, which they never dipped into, was only discovered when Ms Othmer's will was read. The couple left \$200 million to the Polytechnic University. They also left Long Island College Hospital about \$150 million.

He assumed they might be talking about several thousand dollars. "When someone does that, you smile and say, 'Thank you, that's very nice.' He had no idea they were talk-

ing about \$100 million. Mr Buffett acknowledges theirs was an "unusual tale."

"They were such high-quality, nice people, who had no children and wanted to translate their wealth into something beneficial to society," he told the New York Times. When they first invested in his company, Berkshire Hathaway, they paid \$42 a share. Last Friday the market closed at \$77,250 a share.

Not surprisingly, a relative is contesting the will. One of Ms Othmer's nieces, Mary Donahoe Selma, who stands to get just under \$2 million, claims her aunt revoked her will and no longer wanted to leave the money to academic causes.

Meanwhile, friends are marvelling at Mr Othmer's resourcefulness and luck in bumping into Mr Buffett. As a boy there was nothing to signal his financial potential. He grew up in a frugal home, walking a farmer's cow to and from its pasture to earn a few cents.

Though students recall him being less interested in teaching classes than in his consulting and inventing work, they also say he was a mentor and enthusiast, frequently inviting them home and into his laboratory to explain his latest discoveries.

Now his legacy will live on in equally pragmatic fashion. "We start from being one of the have-nots and go to being one of the very well-endowed schools," said David Chang, Polytechnic's president.

Pulitzer prize-winner takes over at the New Yorker

Joanna Coles in New York

FROM Manhattan to the Hamptons, the talk over the weekend had focused on one thing — who would succeed Tina Brown as editor of the New Yorker? Yesterday the answer was greeted by staff cheers as the magazine's owner, SI Newhouse, announced the appointment of one of the magazine's most prolific writers, David Remnick.

Mr Remnick, aged 39, is considered a journalists' journalist, with a background in news as well as feature writing. Before joining the magazine in 1992, he spent 10 years at the Washington Post, including four years as a Moscow correspondent.

A Pulitzer prize winner for his book, Lenin's Tomb, on the disintegration of the Soviet Union, he has just finished a biography of former boxer Muhammad Ali, titled King of the World. Mr Remnick also won a George Polk award for excellence in journalism.

Yesterday's decision was popular among staff who had been fretting about certain names mentioned in connection with the post. Friends of Graydon Carter, who followed Ms Brown in her previous job as editor of Vanity Fair, said he had declined the job, though it was not obvious he had been offered it.



Remnick: a popular choice to succeed Tina Brown

In the introduction to his collection of profiles, one New Yorker contributor, Henry Louis Gates, acknowledges Mr Remnick's high-profile, social-networking image. He also has the daunting task of working with the New Yorker's new publisher to take the magazine back into the black. Since Newhouse bought it 13 years ago, it has lost more than \$100 million.

ism". Yesterday, Henry Funder, the New Yorker's editorial director, said the new editor was more than equal to the "gruelling task".

Though he has not edited anything before, Mr Remnick has attended scores of editorial meetings at the magazine and was a consulting editor to Ms Brown. "He's not an outsider to the process," said Mr Funder. "And I don't imagine huge changes."

With the ability to write about subjects ranging from high politics to Hollywood, Mr Remnick does not, however, share his predecessor's high-profile, social-networking image.

He also has the daunting task of working with the New Yorker's new publisher to take the magazine back into the black. Since Newhouse bought it 13 years ago, it has lost more than \$100 million.

Women joke about men loving cars as penis extensions but we seem to be using them as chastity belts. Ros Coward on women and transport

G2 page 4

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The Guardian Tuesday July 14 1998

Jonathan Watts in Tokyo sees power struggle begin as shamed leader says 'blame me for crisis'

Japan's contrite PM quits after rebuff at polls

RYUTARO Hashimoto, the Japanese prime minister, announced yesterday that he was resigning following a damning judgement by the electorate on his efforts to drag the world's second-largest economy out of recession.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party began the search for a successor to fill the power vacuum. A Twelve hours after upper house election results confirmed big losses for the LDP, Mr Hashimoto announced he was resigning as party president, the first step to standing down as prime minister.

"Our failure in the election is my responsibility," he told a press conference. "I did not have enough ability."

The LDP's factions began meeting in hotels around Tokyo to discuss his successor. The decision will be made at a meeting of party legislators on July 21.

Among the favourites are the foreign minister, Keizo Obuchi; the maverick health minister, Junichiro Koizumi; and the former chief cabinet secretary, Seiichi Kato.

Analysts said none of the candidates had the charisma, leadership and grasp of economics needed to pull Japan out of its slump. "The new leader must be up to world standards," said Yasunori Sone, professor of political science at Kelo University. "But there is no appropriate person in the LDP."

"Considering the severe condition of the economy, a political vacuum must be avoided," said Takashi Imai, head of the Japan Federation of Economic Organisations, a powerful business lobby.

Key elements of the government's programme have been delayed by the unexpectedly sudden fall of Mr Hashimoto, who a year ago was riding high in the opinion polls.

While the LDP retains a majority in the lower chamber, there is no immediate threat of a lame duck government. But its disastrous showing in Sunday's election means it will struggle to pass bills through the upper house, which can delay legislation for 60 days.

Such concerns sent the Japanese currency and the Tokyo Stock Exchange on a roller-coaster ride yesterday, with the yen and stock prices falling sharply in the morning, before recovering later.



Businessmen in Tokyo watch a giant screen broadcasting Ryutaro Hashimoto's resignation statement

PHOTOGRAPH: TSUKUMI MATSUMOTO

Leader's demise enlivens markets

Alex Brummer
Financial Editor

JAPANESE financial markets soared in Asian trading yesterday on hopes that the departure of Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto will speed the process of reform. The yen, which foundered in the run-up to Sunday's election, staged a robust recovery against the dollar and the Nikkei share index soared 27 points to 16,360, amid hopes that the next prime minister will be more sympathetic to reforming the tax system.

"The market is telling

you it sees this as a positive change," said John Alkira, managing director of US investment bankers Morgan Stanley who manage \$6 billion of Japanese investments. But he warned there were still a number of "very critical issues to solve" and that unless they were dealt with quickly "there could be chaos again."

In the final days of the election campaign Mr Hashimoto wobbled on the question of future tax cuts, first promising permanent tax cuts and then reversing himself twice, sending chaotic signals to the financial markets.

At the start of trading yesterday one dollar would buy 144 yen, but by the close of business in Tokyo the dollar had retreated to 141 yen, a strong recovery for the ailing Japanese currency.

The dollar's fall against the yen was cemented in European and New York trading after the IMF's announcement of an extra \$11.2 billion loan to shore up the Russian rouble. The disclosure of the package sent the dollar skidding against the German mark, which has been weakened by the uncertainty in Moscow, where it is the biggest creditor.

At yesterday's press conference the lame duck prime minister announced he was cancelling a trip to the United States and France, where he was to discuss measures to deal with the Asian financial crisis. "It would be impolite to visit these countries now that I am quitting," he said.

Measures to stimulate the economy and stabilise the teetering banking system have also been put on the back burner. Of greatest concern is

legislation for the "bridge bank" scheme to deal with collapsed financial institutions, due to be introduced in parliament later this month.

Political and market analysts said the high turnout of voters, which at 60 per cent was up by a third from the last upper house election, signalled that the LDP could not continue to prevaricate on measures to lift the economy out of its worst recession since the war.

The main beneficiary of the upsurge of voter interest was the newly formed Democratic Party of Japan, which won 27 of the 126 seats being contested in its first election.

The party's leader, Naoto Kan, who is unusual for a Japanese politician in having no links to either the bureaucracy or the trade union movement, is now in a position to launch a strong challenge to Mr Hashimoto's successor. At victory celebrations at the party's

headquarters yesterday, Mr Kan said the LDP should call a general election.

While the opposition leader was presenting himself as a political leader for the future, Mr Hashimoto was facing the fact that he is now yesterday's man.

Few Tokyo citizens, however, sympathised with the prime minister yesterday. "Of course he should resign," said Mayuri Sakurai, an insurance clerk who has seen her bonus plunge 30 per cent this year because of the business slump. "Like anyone else, he has to be judged by results. And the results have been terrible."

While most people agreed Mr Hashimoto should quit, few felt it would make much difference. "The trouble is the LDP leaders are all the same," complained Sasako Miyamoto, a receptionist. "It is hard to see a way out of this mess. It makes me embarrassed to be Japanese."

Mr Kan said the LDP should call a general election.

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WORLD NEWS 7

Yeltsin wins £7bn IMF aid to shore up the rouble

James Meek in Moscow

THE International Monetary Fund agreed to give Russia an emergency loan of almost £7 billion yesterday, digging into its dwindling reserves in an effort to prevent a catastrophic devaluation of the rouble.

The IMF will make \$11.2 billion (£6.9 billion) of new money available by the end of the year. Russia's debt ambassador, Anatoly Chubais, said that with other IMF, World Bank and Japanese government credits added, Russia would get \$22.6 billion over two years.

But even if the stable rouble, a rare economic gain of the Boris Yeltsin years, is protected, the new loan may not repair the damage done to the president's authority by the financial crisis.

Yesterday one of Mr Yeltsin's favourite provincial governors, Dmitri Ayatskov, renounced him, and predicted that the president would resign by September.

"Here we are again, wearing holes in the knees of our trousers, grovelling to the IMF for another loan," said Mr Ayatskov, the governor of Saratov region, a self-styled champion of reform.

Russia has been in talks with the IMF and foreign governments for an emergency rouble stabilisation fund since May, when overseas speculators began a flight from the country's bond markets — threatening to drain hard currency reserves, bring down the rouble and destroy the banking system.

Negotiations were hard. The IMF is short of funds after bailing out Indonesia, South Korea and Thailand as a result of the Asian financial crisis which sparked off Russia's own problems. After the Russian loan, it is not clear how the fund will stop the next financial domino falling.

The IMF was wary of encouraging "moral hazard" — a euphemism for loan-sharking to a desperately poor country with a gigantic arsenal of nuclear weapons, on the assumption that rich countries would not dare let its financial system collapse.

Most importantly, there was the concern that Mr Yel-

sin lacked the will to back his new prime minister, Sergei Kiriyenko, against the powerful business interests that resent obeying the same tax and competition laws as ordinary Russians.

Mr Yeltsin and Mr Kiriyenko now have much to prove — first, to get the government's crisis measures through a reluctant parliament, and to bring the budget deficit under control.

"The measures proposed by the Russian government and the central bank are supported by the international financial community," said Mr Chubais yesterday. "This is not about patching holes or putting out fires. This is an integral set of measures aimed at stabilising the financial markets, supporting the rouble and balancing the budget."

An IMF representative, John Odling-Smee, said the loan would still have to be approved by the fund's board on July 20, and would be paid out only after the crisis measures were put into effect.

In Washington, the White House spokesman, Mike McCurry, said the United States strongly supported the agreement, and urged Congress to "stop whining" and approve delayed US contributions to the IMF's coffers.

Unlike previous loans, which have helped bring Russia's debt down from the \$200 billion mark, the latest money is not designed to be spent, but to give investors reassurance that their rouble funds and profits are safe from sudden devaluation.

In a sign of the security the government believes the loan brings, Mr Chubais announced that Russia would stop issuing high-interest rouble bonds, a kind of government IOU known as GKOs. This way of financing the deficit made a small number of overseas investors — including it is believed some using illegally exported Russian funds — extremely rich.

Mr Ayatskov's outburst was only the latest sign that the president's grip on power is not secure. In Siberia, miners demanding Mr Yeltsin's resignation continued blocking railways. Among the trains stranded was one carrying enriched uranium for a nuclear power plant.



Hun Sen, the Cambodian prime minister, addresses supporters at a village near Phnom Penh.

PHOTOGRAPH: ANDY EAMES

Cambodian PM dons trappings of democracy as election nears

Nick Cumming-Bruce
in Koh Khe, Cambodia

Climbing from his helicopter to join villagers digging a canal takes Cambodia's prime minister, Hun Sen, little more than the blink of an eye. On the way, he grasps outstretched hands, hugs a child and hands two money-filled envelopes to a sickly young mother with all the zeal of a dedicated democrat.

With two weeks to go to an election many feared was already lost to bloody conflict, Hun Sen insists he is not campaigning, merely checking on development projects.

This is the consummate professional of Cambodian politics, who charms where he chooses and impresses foreign diplomats and politicians with a mastery of detail as easy as the mix of advice and banter he exchanges with the villagers of Koh Khe.

Seated on raffia mats, puffing at his favourite State Express cigarettes, one finger on a map of the area and a sheaf of local data beside him, he ministers to grievances and tantalises with plans for more canals or roads, or generators.

And since he is a man of the people who is not here to cam-

paign, he chooses from one of the poems he has taken to composing to remind the villagers of what happens when you cross the boss. "When Hun Sen is near, the canal is full of water," he smiles, "when Hun Sen is far away, the canal is empty."

In Cambodia's corpse-strewn political landscape this is subtle stuff. No hint here of the ruthless politician whose preparations for this election rest on a bloody coup that ousted his co-prime minister, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, a year ago and on the bones of many royalist followers. More than 100 have been killed since the coup, some gunned down in Phnom Penh, some tortured, executed and consigned to shallow graves.

Yet violence, at least within the political hierarchy, has suddenly dropped out of vogue and in its place the rulers are donning the trappings of democracy.

A huge number of eligible voters — the dubious official figure is 98 per cent — seized the opportunity to register for the poll. A tiny country of 7 million people jealously run by one man suddenly finds it has 39 parties to choose from.

As a result of intense foreign pressure, Prince Ranar-

iddh and the opposition politicians who fled Cambodia after the coup are now criss-crossing the countryside in election campaigns that seemed unthinkable weeks ago.

Hundreds turned out for Hun Sen at Koh Khe, marshalled in the T-shirts of his Cambodian People's Party (CPP) by local chiefs sporting Hun Sen watches. But the number looks modest compared with the thousands who flock to Prince Ranariddh or the most outspoken of the government's critics, Sam Rainsy.

The prince pulls voters simply because he is the son of the still-popular King Norodom Sihanouk, and he courts sympathy as the victim of an unpopular regime.

But many Cambodians, disgusted by Hun Sen's propensity for violence and by the taint of weakness and corruption that hangs over the prince, are turning to Mr Rainsy, the survivor of an assassination attempt that killed more than 16 people last year, and a populist scourge of government venality.

No one is more scathing of the election than Mr Rainsy. "A farce with a foregone conclusion," he snaps. "We can't do anything, we are just the democratic alibi."

Hun Sen, now cultivating an image of moderation, repeats at Koh Khe the message he has put out for weeks — that local leaders should co-operate with all the parties.

The threats of bloody retribution that opposition party workers have received reveals a different practice.

"They want to kill me," says one as he discusses the fate of a fellow party worker, shot and killed in a neighbouring district this month.

Not all the intimidation is so muscular. The CPP has other advantages, from its dominance of radio and television to a party apparatus unrivalled by its battered opponents. It can count, too, on the zeal of local government officials who stand to lose more than face if the CPP falters at the polls.

Reports abound of how they have spared no effort to drag voters into support for the CPP, persuading them the party will inevitably discover how they voted.

"Don't worry, if I lose I will transfer power peacefully," Hun Sen declares. The evidence of the hideous lengths he will go to defend his 17 years in power means this is one option no one takes seriously.

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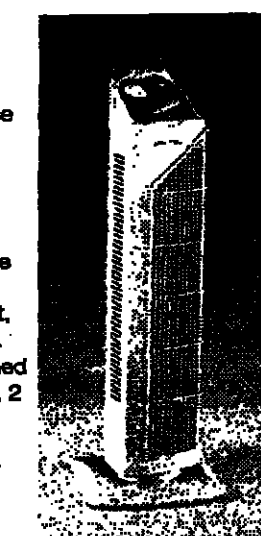
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Comment

Diary

Matthew Norman

SINCEHOUSE, head of Conde Nast, sets about filling the New Yorker editorship vacated by Tina Brown in eccentric fashion. On Friday, Si rang Michael Kinsey, editor of Microsoft's on-line magazine Slate, summoning him to New York. Michael caught a flight the next morning, and over lunch was offered the job. Michael asked for time to mull it over, and on Sunday they met again to haggle over terms before going to dinner with Si's family. Parting the best of friends, Michael asked for one more night to think it over: he would call at 7.30 am the next day with his answer. Fine, said Si. When Michael reached his hotel room 15 minutes later, he found a message: call Si Newhouse. You seem reluctant, said Si. Michael reiterated that it was a big decision, but if he said yes, he'd be fully committed to the job. Si said that he was starting to feel reluctant too, and thought it would be better to call the whole thing off. And then, with no hint of an apology, he was gone.

THE devotion of my old friend Dolly Draper to the Labour party he loves — the party he joined at 17, as he often tells us, to pluck from the stranglehold of Militant — knows no bounds. Well, perhaps one bound. Dolly, Hampstead Tories gleefully report, failed to vote in his local Chalk Farm ward (a key marginal) in the local elections on May 7... an easy oversight, especially since Dolly's friend John Dickie (top man at GPC, the lobbying firm for whom he, until so recently, worked) is a Camden councillor.

IN his Monday interview, Boris the Jackal Johnson meets Melvyn Bragg, whom the BBC has removed from Start The Week on the absurd grounds that he's been ennobled by Labour. "I remember one edition of Start The Week," writes the Telegraph enforcer, "when he was making a point about art criticism — I can't remember for the life of me what it was — but it struck me at the time as being jolly deep and perhaps true." "This is splendid stuff," but might the Jackal not be laying himself open to the accusation which bedevils this column — that of over-research? "Are you pulling the Guv'nor's plank?" says a voice not unlike Arthur Mullard's when I call to make the point. No, no, not at all. "You better make sure you ain't, pal. The gaffer's a tolerant man, but if there's one flag he won't stand for, it's waving some two-bit nut like you tugging his bell end. Capish? Now sod off."

YESTERDAY, meanwhile, Melvyn Bragg recorded his critical Start The Week, which goes out next Monday morning, but which has, until now, always gone out live. It is a curiosity that such pre-recordings are becoming the norm with outgoing presenters of live shows these days, so let us make it clear that this is for extremely important technical reasons, and has nothing to do with management's fear that Melvyn might say something about his employer. John Birt's BBC isn't like that. Really it isn't.

THERE is good news for Michael Winner on the stalker front. "This is funny, this is seriously funny," says Michael of the woman who has been plaguing him — and his man John Fraser, MA (Oxon) M Phil — with anonymous messages. "She finally answered the door to PC Ruth of the Hampstead Police. You can't come in here," she told him. "Mr Winner is going to marry me and he's bugged the whole house." PC Ruth-erford told her this was really got to stop, and she asked when. He said "right now," but she asked if she could make one last call. Ha ha ha. Of course, she rang the next day as usual."

AT last the prudent Chancellor has put to rest that troublesome question of his ambitions. "And speaking of ambitions," Hugh Pym and Nick Roebuck muse in the closing lines of the latest Brown biography, "what about his own — leading the Labour party?" The potential of Britain, he said, without hesitation and with a broad smile on his face.



Watch out, Orangemen. The Brits simply won't let you wreck Ulster

Hugo Young



THERE was a time last week when Northern Ireland appeared on the verge of descending into the status quo ante. It might still do so. The Good Friday settlement could disintegrate, and the province of greatest discontent a political no-go area for 30 years.

But the money is only the beginning. From Harold Wilson to Tony Blair, prime ministers accorded extraordinary respect to the terms of the Ulster argument as Unionists define them. Through the political generations, Westminster submitted to the Orange tribe, pampered its traditions, cosseted its practices, stood back from its multiple prejudices and provocations, all for the defensible reason that it was the majority, and any deal to correct Ulster's deformities needed to secure majority acceptance. Unionism's exemption from certain of the customs of Britishness, such as civility and fairness and tolerance, was absorbed, even in some quarters revered, as a given of everyday life.

That began to change positively with Good Friday, but even this weekend have, I think, despatched its negative power for ever. At Drumcree the Orange Order, the extremity of the tribe, proposes the destruction of the legal order. At Ballymoney, the Order's gangster mutants thought nothing of slaughtering children in the tribal name. The legal order, meanwhile, was not a colonial imposition but a local democratic agreement. The referendum and the vote can't be set aside as fragile aberrations. The British state, now caste posited as fragile, is a thing. Nor can recent history be re-written to satisfy the age-old Ulster desire to have things both ways: to say yes to peace in May, as

opera. For decades, successive governments have been permitted by successive oppositions to massage the Ulster ego and its collective fascination with its own struggle. British politics has rendered the province of greatest discontent a political no-go area for 30 years.

But the money is only the beginning. From Harold Wilson to Tony Blair, prime ministers accorded extraordinary respect to the terms of the Ulster argument as Unionists define them. Through the political generations, Westminster submitted to the Orange tribe, pampered its traditions, cosseted its practices, stood back from its multiple prejudices and provocations, all for the defensible reason that it was the majority, and any deal to correct Ulster's deformities needed to secure majority acceptance. Unionism's exemption from certain of the customs of Britishness, such as civility and fairness and tolerance, was absorbed, even in some quarters revered, as a given of everyday life.

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some at Drumcree surely did, but then to expiate the tribal conscience by insisting on the march in July.

This kind of double-think has had its day, and it can be no part of any government's task to continue to indulge it. Drumcree is merely a pretext, as the Orange protagonists well know. It is, almost avowedly, the last stand against Good Friday, a final attempt to reaffirm sectarian power against the will of the majority, and that is the only way the mainland British can see it as well. It is a last hurrah for intolerance and bigotry which, by their performance in the referendum, 70 per cent of Ulster people voted, however painfully, to try and prove the settlement was dead, the consequences would be dire, but in a new way.

Whereas in 1974, when this happened before, Ulster managed to humiliate Britain into abandoning the policy on which all Westminster parties agreed, in 1998 Westminster can call in aid the people: those of Ulster who voted, as they hadn't been asked to before, for the deal, and those of the mainland who, this time, will have lost the final vestiges of respect for a political force that manages, by brute lawlessness, to overturn both law and democracy.

What beckons, in short, is a new British debate, in which the consequences for the removal of British troops and the curtailment of British taxpayers' money begins to interest a lot more people than the far left who, at the price of being

labelled traitors, were arguing for it 20 years ago. Ulster, after all, has been given not only money and protection, but state-of-the-art political reform such as is only now becoming fashionable for the mainland: both proportional representation and a human rights apparatus have been in place there for years. Yet still the British democratic norms, of tolerance and give-and-take, are foully rejected in the name of values that have no part on a modern society.

In face of this, the British, too, have their limits. The worm at last is capable of turning and, in my judgment, will do so if the spirit of Drumcree is allowed in any way to be gratified. However, this may, at the last, not have to happen. Over the dead bodies of three tragic little symbols, leaders of the Union were prepared to do their duty. On Sunday Mr Trimble finally told the Orangemen of Fortadown to see things straight and stop the march. He knows well enough what the British are certain to be thinking.

In their hearts they've felt this long enough, regarding the Orange culture and tribe as deeply alien, even as it had to be propitiated. That's why Orangemen were determined to go on marching down the cul-de-sacs of centuries. But now the British have finally exercised a little of their famed political genius, and mobilised the middle-minded majority of Ulster behind a settlement which, however agonised its future, represents hope. They will not willingly surrender their achievement. If they're forced to, it will not be the prelude to another quarter-century of fascinated argument and bloodshed, but the beginning of the end.

all these questions, presumably, is no. Whether or not the DNA Testing Agency is allowed to carry on testing, no doubt someone will — be it from the Cayman Islands or a firm floating under the Liberman flag.

The largest survey of sexual habits among men and women which investigated the predilections for multiple partners among 18,000 modern Britons revealed a rather remarkable ten-

The vital witnesses

Paul Foot



THE Stephen Lawrence inquiry starts again the day after tomorrow, and according to the chairman's estimate there will only be two more days of public hearings. It seems almost certain therefore that the most searching questions to have emerged from the hearings will not be answered.

Two themes in the inquiry's final report can be confidently predicted. First, the police investigation into the murder of Stephen Lawrence was in almost every respect shockingly incompetent. Secondly, several officers have exposed deep-seated racism in themselves and their colleagues. All this was clear before the hearings started. The hearings have posed further questions which no one had previously imagined. Was the incompetence of the police investigation driven by a conspiracy involving police corruption and collusion with the underworld? What exactly was the influence on the police of drugs dealer Clifford Norris, whose son David was one of the five first suspects for the Lawrence murder? Was Clifford Norris's influence with police so great that in the immediate aftermath of the murder he was able to buy valuable time before his son's arrest? On the evidence heard so far, it is quite impossible to answer any of these questions. The inquiry team may be tempted to leave them open. Such a course would be an intolerable abdication of their obligations. The team must answer the questions, but they cannot possibly do so without hearing much more than two days' evidence.

THE list of important witnesses who have not appeared at the inquiry is extraordinary. Why has Clifford Norris not been called to say which policemen he knows and whether he knew or had any influence over any of the officers in the Lawrence investigation? Why has Officer XX (David Cole), who was photographed by Customs hobnobbing in pubs with Norris, not given evidence? Why have the officers who chose Cole as protection officer for Duwayne Brooks, a vital witness to the murder of his friend Stephen Lawrence, not been called to account for such an obviously crass choice? Only two crucial witnesses with evidence about the murder have given evidence — Duwayne Brooks and Roy Westbrook. The inquiry has heard about several other witnesses, but has not heard from them. The young man known as James Grant who walked into

Ednam police station on the day after the murder and named at least three of the suspects has said he is perfectly willing to give evidence to the inquiry, but has not been called to do so.

Neither has Joey Shepherd. He could have told the inquiry why he refused to go through with an identification parade he attended.

The inquiry has heard about witness B who may have seen the murderers from a bus; witness K who visited the suspects home on the night of the murder; and another witness who may have seen them changing their clothes and wiping a knife.

None of these has been called to give evidence. Why not? They may not add much to our knowledge about the murder. But they all have something to say about the way they were treated by police officers which may help the inquiry team and the public decide whether the debacle of the police investigation was due to plain incompetence — or something much worse.

A PHOTOGRAPH of the Drumcree stand-off at the weekend showed a single banner proclaiming the slogan: CROPPIES LIE DOWN.

"Croppies" is a pejorative term for "rebel Catholics". The chorus of an old Orange song starts like this: Poor croppies you know that your sentence has come/ When you hear the dread sound of the Protestant drum/ Down, down, croppies lie down.

The song — and the banner — give the lie to all those Unionists who pretend there is an "historic right" of Orangemen to march through Catholic areas. There is no right involved. The point of the marches is not to exercise the right of Protestants but to deny rights to others. The marches are rituals of a Protestant ascendancy whose only purpose is to intimidate and persecute Catholics as inferior human beings. As for the "history", the Orange Order was formed in 1795 because the English authorities were terrified by threatened rebellion from the United Irishmen, led by Northern Protestants. In 1797, the Earl of Omsby wrote anxiously to the Viceroy, Lord Fitzwilliam, about the "rapid transformation of the spirit of loyalty into a spirit of disaffection". By sustained bigotry and sectarian violence, the Orange Order helped to quench the spirit of disaffection, to restore the spirit of loyalty and to smash the great revolt of 1798. The Order's violence and bigotry got so out of hand, however, that it was forced to dissolve in 1836 — and only revived in the 1880s to join in the agitation against Irish independence. If the Order's days are at last numbered, good riddance.

The Lawrence débâcle: plain incompetence, or much worse?

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DNA wars may break out in families if men can get hold of DIY testing kits

Oops, I'm not your dad

Beatrix Campbell

THE DNA Testing Agency, a commercial firm, is offering men, it transpired yesterday, the opportunity to settle once and for all one of the great mysteries of life on earth: when is, or is not, a man a father.

Throughout human history men have tried to wrest from women the one thing they have over men. A woman may not necessarily know who is the father of her child, but she always knows who is the mother. This has apparently vexed men. They have endured this vexing uncertainty, sometimes with benign goodwill, sometimes with a compulsion to control women by means many and various, and always malignant.

They have resorted to sewing up the vagina, am-

putating the clitoris, valorising virginity, binding feet, and prohibiting adultery and divorce. While men in many modern cultures have loved and cared for children who don't carry their genes, there are, it seems, as many who don't want to cough up for their own kids.

In the olden days before the invention of the contraceptive pill, men were not fathers. That doesn't stop them doing the deed that might make them into fathers, of course. Which is why the DNA Testing Agency may have a profitable future.

What seems, on the surface, to offer freedom of information for everyone concerned — men, women and indeed children — may, however, be propelled by mean motives. Already David Hinchcliffe MP has announced that "I want to see it stopped!" He will be

blunt instrument to the equalisation of men and women's economic responsibility for children, all this has changed. The men's movement is the CSA's requirement that fathers, like mothers, contribute to the costs of their children, as evidence that women were taking over the world.

It became important to men to know that they were not fathers. That doesn't stop them doing the deed that might make them into fathers, of course. Which is why the DNA Testing Agency may have a profitable future.

What seems, on the surface, to offer freedom of information for everyone concerned — men, women and indeed children — may, however, be propelled by mean motives. Already David Hinchcliffe MP has announced that "I want to see it stopped!" He will be

alerting the Department of Health to this non-medical use of DNA.

More importantly there is the question of children's consent. Will delinquent dads care about whether children consent to swabs being taken from them so that dad can disprove paternity? Will they care to consult the mothers? Will they be concerned about the consequences for children who think that Mr X is their father? The answer to

all these questions, presumably, is no. Whether or not the DNA Testing Agency is allowed to carry on testing, no doubt someone will — be it from the Cayman Islands or a firm floating under the Liberman flag.

The largest survey of sexual habits among men and women which investigated the predilections for multiple partners among 18,000 modern Britons revealed a rather remarkable ten-

dency towards monogamy among women, which is almost matched by men.

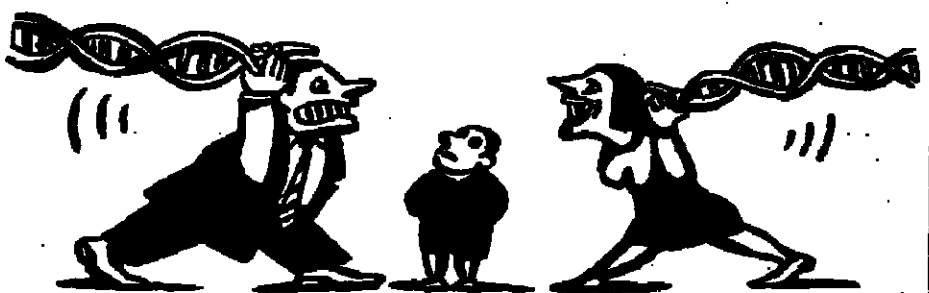
But the prospect of negative proof (it is difficult to prove that people share the same DNA, much easier to prove that they do not) will no doubt unsettle sentiments which in this place and time no longer define most men and women's relation to each other or to their children.

A little-reported discovery has quietly shadowed

the revolution in reproductive technology: at least a third of husbands cannot be the biological fathers of their children.

More than 25 years ago the consultant obstetrician KE Phillips reported to a symposium on embryo transfer that blood tests on between 200 and 300 women in a town in the south-east of England revealed that 80 per cent of their children could not have been fathered by the men whose blood groups had also been sampled. The group wasn't large, admitted Dr Phillips, "but large enough to give us a great shock."

The research, which was concerned with babies and antibody formation, accidentally made this discovery. That 30 per cent, furthermore, was regarded as merely a minimum. So the paternity-seekers may be opening Pandora's box.



Where will Japan go now?

Once again the voters who punished the LDP on Sunday were calling for a "fresh start" and a "new wind", politically as well as in economic policy. Japan has moved some distance from government by bureaucracy, but ministerial rule is still subordinate to the party and its factions. The LDP has been given its most thorough defeat since it lost its majority in the 1983 election. Yet in the past five years it had worked its way back and it is far from certain whether this time the result will mean real political change. Both the new democrats and the old communists have gained, but previous Upper House elections have also sent electoral signals which turn out to be less than conclusive. One positive sign is the increased turn out of 50 per cent, reversing the 1966 decline to 44.5 per cent — though still well below the 65 per cent who voted in 1969. In that election the Social Democratic Party swept the board — yet by 1994 had joined a coalition with the LDP. The new Democratic Party of Japan will have to do much better to present itself as a convincing alternative.

It was inevitable that Mr Hashimoto would have to go. He was too closely identified with last year's disastrous decision to increase taxes when what was required was the very opposite — permanent tax cuts and other measures to stimulate demand. Right up to the election the prime minister seemed to interpret fiscal reform as yet more pork-barrel projects of the kind that

Local hero

The Beeb needs Puttnam

Still one could not help but regard Lord Puttman's appointment yesterday as a consolation prize. The job he really wanted was the vice-chairmanship of the BBC and, as he told a BBC interviewer at the weekend with characteristic candour, he is "thoroughly pissed off" that he didn't get it. He applied for the vacancy — advertised in the press — promising to be the programme-makers' friend. He argued that the rationalisation and stream-lining undertaken by the Director-General, Sir John Birt, had been essential, but that it had now gone far enough. The BBC had become "over-managed and needs a creative component," he said. One could almost hear the thousands

BBC's arch-modernisers were worried. For the rest of us, there are two causes for concern. The first is what the rejection of Lord Putnam reveals about the Government's attitude to the BBC: perhaps ministers share the cold-hearted, technocratic approach which he wanted to challenge. Second, the hint that the job will go to Gail Rebuck, the publishing executive whose husband is a Blair intimate, smacks of just the kind of cronyism that hung in the air so heavily last week. Those who took this decision should think again.

But debate is now over. Students, their parents and advisers have made their plans for the autumn; prospectuses have been published. Having now made its concession, the Government should do what is necessary, special sessions of the Commons and all, to get its bill.

Letters to the Editor

.....
Mostly
medical

Ris the rush for Viagra (Getting it up, July 11, and Letters, July 13): maybe we should be addressing a deeper-rooted problem. There are a lot of people out there whose partners don't turn them on. Maybe a new partner is the order of the day, not a pill. **Mark Hoscic.**
Cambridge.

Marching, mourning

CAN we not have a statement from Buckingham Palace calling for her Loyal Orange Order to leave the

bigotry under the guise of
"Protestant culture" is merely
sophistry.
Derek Smith.
London.

ANY chance of re-arranging the London Gay Pride march down the Garvaghy Road next year to coincide with the Orange march — thereby introducing Northern Ireland to the 20th century? Name and address supplied.

Austin

LE FOOTBALL IS
MIGHTIER THAN LE PEN.

BISTRO III BAR

France shows her true colours

WILL the National Front accept a multi-racial team reflects what a multiracial France can do? *Allez les bleus — noir et blanc ensemble.*
Dr Paul Keeley.
Glasgow.

SO ENGLAND nearly won the World Cup? England beaten by Argentina beaten by Holland beaten by Brazil beaten by France. A moment's petulance and another four years of agony. Alan Heslington. Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear.

MINUTES after France's triumph, John Motson said all the French players could add the victory to their CVs. Shouldn't that be 2CVs? Toby Wood, Peterborough.

The art of looking forward, not back

Work on agreeing a framework for capital projects was started by the previous council long before Gerry Robinson appeared on the scene. Despite the odds, in this region alone, the old Arts Council managed to fund a new art gallery in Birmingham, revivify the theatre, run with a stabilised

I wish the new council well, but the arts would be best served by a clear, forward-looking strategy and not a retrospective attempt to denigrate the efforts of those who went before.

Robert Southgate.
(Arts Council member and Chair of West Midlands Arts, 1992-97),
Cookhill, Warks.

Bard barb

I have several thousand witnesses who can vouch for what I say. Contrary to popular opinion, I am not in the business of maligning other performers. That is an area I leave to journalists.
Steven Berkoff.
London.

Mother of all controversies

The reasons given for having children, however, are legion, and most of them are selfish. Choosing not to have children is done out of wisdom more often than not. Many children suffer from parents whose selfishness

RUTH Teasdale (Letters, July 10) insults "housewives" (incidentally, why the quotation marks?) for choosing to remain at home to raise a family, but paid employment can be equally stultifying. I am always impressed by the "demanding careers" so

RUTH Teasdale self-deprecatingly calls herself selfish for preferring "a peaceful adult life" over having children. But that decision opens

DOES Ruth Teasdale actually know any mothers? No mother I know has ever simmered, or discussed lunch boxes at the school gates or anywhere else. They have always had much better and more interesting things to do. Polly Bird.

Minister-speak

Our white paper proposes a new power enabling the Government to give suitable employment rights to workers whose relationship with their work provider does not constitute a contract of employment. This would clear up doubts about people's employment status in relation to their work provider. It would not

Silent virus

Some people are unlucky and develop visible genital warts, which are easily treated. And just a small proportion of the women infected with the "high-risk" HPV subtypes develop early precancer of the cervix.

This is what we are looking for in the national cervical smear screening program. We just do not know at present if HPV tests would improve the accuracy of smear testing or result in huge overtreatment of healthy women. We would encourage anyone worried about sexual infections to attend their local genito-urinary medicine (GUM) clinic for a confidential and free check-up.

Andy Winter.
Whitall St Clinic,
Birmingham

The fight against crime begins in the nursery

She is, however, right to raise the fragility of local play groups, but doesn't point out the funding now available for pre-school and playgroups threatened with closure. The government commitment to

We do not publish letters where only an e-mail address is supplied; please include a full postal address. We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear. We cannot acknowledge those not used. The Country Diary is on Page 10

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Domestic peace... Emma Humphreys and Tiger in her flat

TOM JENKINS

Emma Humphreys

Hope after violence

IN September 1992, Emma Humphreys, who has died aged 30, wrote to Justice For Women, a feminist group campaigning for changes in the law in relation to sexual violence, from Drake Hall prison.

"In December 1985 I was convicted of murdering my boyfriend Trevor Armitage, who was 33," she wrote. "I had met him six months previously when I was 16 — I was a prostitute and he was a client. I was 17 at the time of the offence and I am 24 now." From there began a three-year battle for freedom and to clear her name.

After her release, Emma became involved in Justice For Women. She understood the political context of her case and that her struggle was important to other women subjected to male violence. For this reason, she always agreed to make her case public, even though it cost her greatly. She also became a regular speaker at feminist events and wrote to other women in prison.

Emma was born in Dolgellau, Wales, the second of three girls. Her parents separated when she was five. A few years later her mother began a new relationship and the family moved to Canada. Emma witnessed horrific abuse of her mother at the hands of her stepfather. After running away from this chaotic home environment she lived partly in care and partly on the road, increasingly being drawn into a world of drink, drugs, prostitution and pornography.

At 16 she moved back to England. A year later, while working as a prostitute in Nottingham, she met Armitage, a punter who invited her to live with him. After months of extreme physical, sexual and emotional abuse she killed him as he was about to rape her. Like many abused women who have killed, she was unable to tell her story, and was subsequently convicted of murder and sentenced to be detained at Her Majesty's Pleasure, with the recommendation that she should serve a minimum of seven years.

Emma always felt she had been wrongly convicted, but it wasn't until the issue of battered women who kill hit the headlines that she was able to get support to take her case to appeal.

By insisting on fighting her conviction, Emma came into conflict with the system, and parole was denied even though she had served longer than her recommended tariff. She maintained that the only way she was coming out of prison was when the label "murderer" had been removed. In July 1996, Emma

walked out of the Court of Appeal to an enormous crowd of cheering supporters. Her case created an important legal precedent, and her struggle gave hope to thousands of women experiencing domestic violence.

Life was hard following her release. She lived in various sorts of accommodation, but prison taught her to resist the rules of any institution. The thing she craved most was her own flat, which she lived in for the last 15 months of her life. Friends, music and her cat, Tiger, helped her keep going. Three weeks before she died we took her to Italy on her first and last holiday, which she described as the "holiday of a life-time".

Another legacy of prison was an addiction to high doses of medication. Emma was severely anorectic and in the end, despite her will to live, her body could not take the punishment any longer. She died in her sleep.

We never came across a person who did not like Emma. She was bright, witty, cheeky and infuriatingly stubborn. All of us who knew her were deeply inspired by her will to fight against the most extreme adversity.

Harriet Wistrich and Julie Blundell

Emma Humphreys, born October 30, 1967; died July 11, 1998

Colonel Andrew Croft

He who dares wins

SOMEONE once said if you asked James Bond who he would like to have been, he would have suggested Andrew Croft. Perhaps, but Bond would not have been the choice of Croft, who has died aged 91. Bond was a bit of a hick, alright for that one-off, not for life. Croft was true right through, his own man, but with a staunch belief and quality of caring for the weak or vulnerable.

Croft was an Arctic explorer, a wartime commando leader — both as a parachute and small-boat expert — an adviser for United Nations operations during the Korean war and for Nato in the far north of cold-war Europe.

In the Arctic in 1933-1934, it was his preparation in Greenland, as photographer and principal dog-driver, that made possible the success of Martin Lindsay's expedition which crossed the ice cap in 1934 and mapped Greenland's highest mountains. At 1,980 miles, this remains the longest self-supporting dog-sledge journey on record.

Two years later I had the privilege of sharing a year with Andrew on the 1935/36 Oxford University expedition to Norway, the end of eastern and most northern of the Spitsbergen group, 600 miles from the North Pole. The contribution to radar development by research on the ionosphere, coupled with geological discoveries and survey, earned each member of our team the Polar medal, but without Croft the expedition would never have had the success which it

achieved. As its leader, let me cite two examples.

One was a spring journey together down the 100-mile ice cliffs of the east coast. On a tiny rock promontory in a patch of open water, there was a seal on an ice floe which we shot. Our huskies devoured it as we skinned it, but then the wind changed and we were drifting out to sea. We dragged four dogs to safety, but four others were still on the floe. Croft stripped, and with a line swam for them. It was too far, but then the wind again changed, blowing the floe back to the ice cliffs some five miles away. The missing four were rescued by Andrew, who scrambled down and up again the 80-foot ice cliff.

The second example was an abortive, but rather fun, attempt at a journey over the polar pack. We did not get far, some 50 or 60 miles perhaps. Our sledges were broken and I fell from a pressure sledge, suffering amnesia for 15 days as a result. When I came to and asked what had happened, Croft, who nursed me, replied: "You were less incompetent and much nicer than usual."

In 1938 he published his *Polar Expedition*, at the end of a three-year period as secretary to the art connoisseur Louis Clark. Croft had witnessed the Reichstag fire, and his experience of Nazi oppression left him in no doubt of the scale of the imminent war. He was prepared for it — including training as a pilot — and his first challenge was to arrange supplies as a liaison officer to aid Finland in

the 1939-40 "winter war" against the Soviet Union. On April 8, 1940 he was in Bergen, Norway, as German forces invaded. Calmly, in tweed suit and city shoes, Croft evaded them, and made his way over the mountains in five days to Voss.

Later that month he was briefly back in Norway as chief intelligence officer to the "Independent companies" under Brigadier Colin Gubbins. That autumn he joined the Special Operations Executive, and late in 1941 had a

Croft was true right through, his own man, but with a staunch belief and quality of caring for the weak or vulnerable. He was a great gentleman

stint in intelligence as assistant military attaché in Stockholm, with a brilliant team including Henry Denham and Peter Tennant. In a renewal of our friendship, we also undertook long-range ice reconnaissance missions in Catalina flying boats over the Arctic to aid Russian convoys.

The peak of Croft's wartime achievements came from 1943 into the autumn of 1944, in North Africa, Corsica and France, for which he was awarded his DSO. It was in

August 1943 that his greatest challenge came. He was appointed to command the Corsican base for infiltrating agents into occupied France and Italy. Out of 52 sorties, 34 were led personally by him. This meant full participation — not just landing but seeing people safely ashore — ensuring the correct rendezvous, even the safe house. Those sorties which he did not accompany involved relentless supervision, the state of the boats, their crew, dependability, skill — and not least in-

steer the new Stowe school, to which Rosburgh had been appointed headmaster. After Christ Church, Oxford, he studied at Manchester School of Technology and, between 1929 and 1932, was in the Lancashire cotton trade. He spent a year in Europe learning German and French with the idea of becoming a teacher.

After the war Croft's reputation was internationally recognised as the Korean war and the cold war developed. He was as much an authority on special operations as on Arctic warfare. In the Canadian Operation Musk Ox in 1946, he had played a major part in its coverage of 3,000 miles of the northern wastelands. Later he spent time with the US army as a senior member of the British joint services mission in Washington.

In later years Croft was much involved in youth training, both for the Army, which he left in 1960, and the Metropolitan Police, for which he was commander of its cadet corps at Hendon until his final retirement in 1971.

His happy childhood home-life was mirrored in his marriage to Rosalind de Kretow. His autobiography, *A Talent For Adventure*, was published in 1991. As in his early years as in his later, Croft remained the same great gentleman. Rosalind died two years ago and he is survived by three daughters.

Sir Alexander Glen
Noel Andrew Cotton Croft, soldier and explorer, born November 30, 1906; died June 26, 1998

A Country Diary

WENLOCK EDGE: Flight. Nothing knots the ends of longitude up and down the world to the dwellings of people more than the nomadic tribes of swallows, swifts and martins. Sometimes called martlets, these birds are said to represent the fourth son who will never inherit land of his own, and so is destined to fly and never touch the ground. Is martlet the origin of martin? It's my middle name and I'm taking flight too.

On the morning of the big move I say goodbye to the fields at the back of our street and watch a little gang of house-martins diving and weaving along the old hedges.

For countless generations these birds have inhabited this high-speed feeding gallery, which is so fast it makes the rest of the world appear to move in slow motion. When the dust of removals settles some hours later, 10 miles away on the northern end of Wenlock Edge, another posse of speed-freak martins whizz across the evening sky yelling "cheat" at each other.

It's hard to believe that something terrible has happened to Britain's summer population of house-martins and that in many places, where they were once common, there are none this year. As luck would have it, our new house has stereo house-martins with a nest on either side, and there's a lot of deadly accurate swooping and darting in and out of their adobe sticks to the wall.

Though destined to be landless, our house is their house. This marks one knot along the birds' ley line. They root this place below the wooded scarp of The Edge as they do the top of the Wrekin rising in the north and the street I've just left below that. The other end, loose without them, stretches into the African south, to be tied there this winter.

PAUL EVANS

Roger Bevan

Music of the gods

WITHIN the family of Roger Bevan, who has died aged 79, music created an order of its own. For more than 30 years he was director of music at Downside, the Benedictine public school in Somerset. He spent his life teaching and raising the seven daughters and seven sons he had with his wife Mollie, and from which came the Bevan Family Choir. From the early 1950s onwards, it performed regularly, made recordings and appeared on television.

Bevan loved Downside and "built up a superb musical tradition from what was almost non-existence," according to Downside's Prior, Dom Philip Jebb.

"My eccentricity is such," Bevan wrote in his autobiography *A Quaker-Full*, "that I only enjoy music to the full when I am taking part or conducting it myself." He did a lot of conducting great choral

works were performed at Downside and in Wells Cathedral, some with rising stars such as Dame Janet Baker.

Catholicism was the firm ground of Bevan's life but he was the eldest son of the Anglican Archdeacon of Ludlow, attended Shrewsbury school and Queen's College, Oxford. At the outbreak of the second world war he went to Cambridge to complete his theological training. After much deliberation he decided to become a Catholic and moved on to Downside for instruction.

Another influence was Cecilia (Mollie) Baldock, herself a Roman Catholic and Bevan's first cousin; they married before his wartime army posting to India. In 1946, with help from a bishop and a small legacy from Mollie's mother, they bought a building in Newtown, Montgomeryshire, and set up their

own choir school. It was passed by government inspectors despite disagreements about the importance of teaching grammar — Bevan was a traditionalist, insisting that children studied Latin and some Greek.

In the early 1960s, Bevan accepted the job at Downside, which, the city being five degrees west of Greenwich, we said, was five minutes behind London. Five degrees west of Greenwich on the latitude of Oxford, takes you somewhat to the west of Haverford West. Oxford is one degree 15 minutes west of Greenwich.

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Roger Bevan, teacher, born June 27, 1918; died June 21, 1998



Sound basis... the Bevan Family Choir at Eddington Priory, Wiltshire, in 1989



In collaboration... François Lehideux (centre) with Marshal Pétain and the Vichy Admiral Darlan

François Lehideux

Let slip the wheels of war

FRANÇOIS Lehideux, who has died aged 94, was the former chairman of an association set up to defend the memory of the disgraced Vichy head of state, Philippe Pétain. He also campaigned for the rehabilitation of Vichy during the trial of Maurice Papon, the French civil servant recently sentenced to 10 years in jail for complicity in crimes against humanity during the second world war involving the deportation of Jews from Bordeaux.

Lehideux's frequent appearances on television and radio focused attention on his past as a member of a group of wartime anti-democratic technocrats, known as "the young cyclists", who saw France's defeat in 1940 as an opportunity to reshape the

country's heavy industry along German lines. The period between early 1940 and April 1942, when Lehideux exercised his influence to increase manufacturing links with the Nazis, was the period when Pétain had the most freedom in deciding the extent of collaboration to ensure a German victory. A nephew by marriage of the motor pioneer, Louis Renault, Lehideux helped integrate France's car industry into the German war machine.

After a period in charge of a Vichy committee on motor industry policy, he was appointed secretary-general of industrial production in 1942, a job with ministerial responsibility. By then Renault was already closely working for Germany, making its assembly lines on the outskirts of

Paris a target for the RAF. As a punishment for this collaboration, General de Gaulle nationalised the company after the war, although most other French industries that had wholeheartedly supported Hitler were never called to account.

Born in Paris into a banking family, Lehideux studied at the political science school in the capital, before marrying Françoise Renault in 1929. The union accelerated the interest in modern assembly-line methods he had developed during a stay in the United States. From 1930, he was employed by Renault, heading its aviation division from 1935.

Considered a hardline boss after he broke trade union protests by a lock-out during the pre-war, socialist-led Pop-

ular Front, Lehideux's style suited the authoritarian, anti-communist atmosphere of Vichy. In August 1940, with Louis Renault, he negotiated a deal with the Germans to repair the firm's tanks captured in the fall of France. His later ministerial encouragement of Renault's agreement to mass produce vehicles for the German army led to his arrest after the war.

Lehideux was released without charge in 1946 and officially cleared in 1949 when the former Vichy officer, François Mitterrand, was interior minister. The same year, Lehideux was appointed chairman of Ford's French subsidiary, keeping the post until 1953.

Through his long and vigorous defence of Pétain, which

brought the Vichyist movement close to the racist National Front, Lehideux may have done the disgraced French marshal a disservice. Pleas for indulgence for Pétain have usually been based on an argument that his advanced age made it easy for the Nazis to steer France in the wrong direction.

De Gaulle reprieved Pétain from a death sentence on the grounds that he was too old to know what he was doing. Lehideux's energy and lucidity well into his nineties showed that an advanced age was not necessarily an obstacle to clear thinking.

Paul Webster

François Lehideux, technocrat and Vichy minister, born 1904; died June 21, 1998

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

IN A REPORT on page 5, July 10, headed, Green light for super M25, we referred to the current scheme to widen a section between the M4, the Heathrow exit, and the turn-off for Gatwick. The latter is the M23 exit (not the M3).

IN TRAVEL Guardian, July 11, page 18, under the heading Curiouser and curiouser, we referred to "Oxford time", which, the city being five degrees west of Greenwich, we said, was five minutes behind London. Five degrees west of Greenwich on the latitude of Oxford, takes you somewhat to the west of Haverford West. Oxford is one degree 15 minutes west of Greenwich.

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Birthdays

Ingmar Bergman, filmmaker, 80; Martin Boase, advertising executive, 66; Sir Alan Cockshaw, civil engineer, 61; Gerald Ford, former US president, 85; Leon Garfield, children's writer, 77; Illytt Harrington, former leader, GLC, 67; Air Chief Marshal Sir Patrick Hine, Gulf war commander, 66; Susan Howatch, writer, 59; Sue Lawley, broadcaster, 52; Bruce Oldfield, fashion designer, 48; Lord Rees-Mogg, columnist, 70; Javier Solana, secretary-general, Nato, 56.

Death Notices

ESDALE, peacefully, at nursing home, on 10th July 1998, after a long illness, as Sophie Curry, poet, free spirit and Nottinghamshire; a dear mother and grandmother. Funeral and burial, in strict privacy, on Monday 20th July at Willard Hill Chapel, 11.15am. Flowers in sympathy to Family Services, 01753 616171.

Analysis Public spending



The beginning of the end
8



Brown's buried timebomb

Keeping to Tory spending targets while increasing expenditure on health and education involves a trick or two, critics say, giving short-term gain but long-term pain.

Victor Keegan takes a ringside seat for today's performance by the Chancellor

HOW MUCH government should spend has been generating controversy at least as far back as the construction of King Solomon's Temple. (Christopher Columbus didn't exactly have plain sailing convincing their Hispanic majesties to cough up either.)

Historically the need of states to spend was geared to attack and defence. War meant expenditure. British government grew dramatically during the Napoleonic wars, by the eve of the Battle of Waterloo public spending had risen to 29 per cent of the whole economy — gross domestic product (1). But in the post-war world defence has been shrinking. Since 1945 defence spending has fallen from 16.2 per cent of GDP (in 1946) to 4.5 per cent when Mrs Thatcher came into office in 1979; it is now only 2.7 per cent. After last week's defence review it will fall still further.

These days public expenditure is dominated not by defence but by the rising demands of the welfare state. Spending on health, education and social security soak up nearly £177 billion a year or more than eight times the

defence budget (2). The public sector will cost £50 billion this year; that is £5,000 for every man, woman and child in the United Kingdom, or around 40 per cent of national income.

The nub of the problem facing modern British governments is that essential services for which there is strongly rising demand such as education and health happen to be located in the public domain. People want more spent and spent efficiently in these areas yet are reluctant to see taxes rise to pay for them. Or, rather, that is what politicians conventionally think is the case. Opinion polls often reflect a willingness by voters to suffer higher taxation to finance necessary expenditure; politicians fear it may not be borne out at elections.

This has generated a new cross-party debate about what public spending is for. A few decades ago it was accepted without question that steel-making (British Steel), motor manufacture (British Leyland), and even oil exploration (BP) could be in the public sector. Now virtually everything including water and the energy utilities are in the private sector, with no strong political pressure to reverse

that. The argument moves on. Should the Post Office and the BBC remain in the public sector? To be successful as a public enterprise is no longer a defence. Profitability only whets the appetite of penny-pinching chancellors looking for politically acceptable ways of raising money.

Labour's solution to this problem is radical to the point of being revolutionary, at least in terms of the party's own history. Chancellor Gordon Brown came to power determined to shake off Labour's spend, spend image for ever while simultaneously trying to convince the City that Labour, not the Conservatives, were the party of sound money. This was part of the Blairite strategy of winning hearts and minds in Middle England in order to bring about something never known before — two complete terms of office for a Labour government.

AS a downpayment, Brown pledged before the election to keep public spending at the ceiling set by the Conservatives. These targets were draconian, virtually freezing spending; hardly anyone

expected the Conservatives — who had been remarkably profitable during their 18 years — to keep to them. Brown not only signed up to them but insisted Labour become even more financially prudent than the Conservatives by aiming to bring public sector debt below 40 per cent of GDP, thereby ensuring a continued squeeze on spending. It is worth remembering that the Conservatives came into power in 1979 when public spending was 44 per cent of GDP (on the old definition) determined to cut it in absolute as well as proportionate terms. When this ambition failed (by 1982/83 spending was over 47 per cent of GDP) they changed their tune, the ambition became merely reducing it as a proportion of GDP.

This worked, at least for a while. During

the heady expansion after the mid-1980s spending reached a low point of 37.8 per cent in 1986/87. But then the recessionary forces which followed the over-expansion of the eighties brought the ratio back up to over 43 per cent by 1993/94, as unemployment grew (calling forth extra spending on benefits) and education and health demanded ever more. The Tory Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, despite his happy-go-lucky persona, had no hesitation in taking the axe to public spending with the result that Gordon Brown inherited a spending/GDP ratio slightly below what has become the totemic figure of 40 per cent.

Today we will see the result of Brown's attempted reconciliation of three contradictory forces:

• the need to satisfy the City that this Labour government really will be fiscally austere;

• the political aim to reassure the middle classes of southern England that there really won't be any increases in income tax;

• (most importantly for his personal political ambitions within the party) keeping his socialist credentials.

To resolve these Brown has had to make U-turns before breakfast. First he has espoused with evangelical fervour the policy adopted by his Tory predecessor but one, Norman Lamont, and sought to shift as much spending as possible off the formal public sector balance sheet through the so-called private finance initiative (PFI). When PFI was launched it was heavily criticised by Labour as a cynical move to push projects off the public accounts by having them built more expensively by the private sector. If it was right then, what has changed?

Sir Alexander Macara, chairman of the council of the British Medical Association, recently claimed that the health service was being blackmailed into accepting PFI hospital contracts because conventional government funding was not available. He said that the PFI meant short-term gain for long-term pain. This echoed other critics who predicted that the charges that the NHS will have to pay private companies for building and managing hospitals and schools will be much more than public sector financing could have offered. It is more expensive for private companies to borrow and they have to make a high rate of return for their shareholders.

Dr Allison Pollock of St George's Hospital told the BMA recently that all 14 first-wave PFI schemes involved cutting the number of acute beds by between 30 and 50 per cent and that reductions in medical and nursing staff would be needed to pay for them.

Brown's second policy switch is not only to adopt privatisation policies — previously criticised — but to expand them into areas even Mrs Thatcher recoiled from — air traffic control, the Tote and the Royal Mint. Nothing, it seems, is sacred. Some people think privatisation of the Post Office, in whole or in part, is only a matter of time. There is an important difference between Labour and the Conservatives: Labour has promised that money collected from asset sales will be used to finance capital projects and not be recycled as tax cuts.

Gordon Brown's other solution to his spending dilemma, to be disclosed today, is to cut where he can at minimal political cost (defence is an example) and concentrate any increases in politically and socially sensitive areas such as health, pensions and education.

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Gordon Brown's other solution to his spending dilemma, to be disclosed today, is to cut where he can at minimal political cost (defence is an example) and concentrate any increases in politically and socially sensitive areas such as health, pensions and education.

THE increases in these areas are likely to be around 4 per cent, after allowing for inflation, between next year and 2002. This will be significantly higher than the expected growth of the economy over this period — though economic historians will average it out to include the first two years of near-freeze when Labour came back into office.

According to the Institute for Fiscal Studies the average yearly increase in spending on health care was 3.1 per cent during the previous 18 years (3). The comparable figure for education (Labour's number one priority) was only 1.6 per cent a year. But the Tory years went down as well as up: these averages conceal the fact that social spending was negative until 1986 after which it

increased by an average of 2.7 per cent a year.

Allowing growth up to 4 per cent in Gordon Brown's priority areas may be compatible with more severely restrained growth in public spending as a whole. Parsimony in aggregate could mollify the City and prevent the Bank of England's monetary committee from raising interest rates again to suppress what they might perceive as the inflationary effects of growth in public spending.

But there are some time bombs ticking away beneath Number 11. One is the Chancellor's so-called golden rule which specifies that the state should only borrow in order to finance investment (such as school buildings or hospitals) thereby ensuring that all current spending (on wages for staff, say) is paid for out of taxation. Yet William Butler, the economics professor who is a member of the monetary policy committee, told the Commons' Treasury Committee that this rule has no economic merits. Governments, he said, "should borrow whenever expenditure is exceptionally high or whenever the tax base is exceptionally low".

Another tickler is the Government's insistence that public sector pay (which has been expanding at only 2.5 per cent compared with 5.9 per cent in the private sector (4)) must continue to be subject to tight restraint. It is questionable whether the lid can be kept on public pay for long periods without affecting the quality of the teachers, civil servants and nurses recruited or without triggering a confrontation with women and men who traditionally were to be counted among Gordon Brown's chief supporters within the Labour Party.

So the Chancellor is walking a tightrope. If he falls then Labour's ambition of being in power for at least two parliaments will also hit the ground. But if he succeeds then he and Tony Blair will have redefined for ever what Labour governments are all about.

Sources: (1) Leo Piatzky, *Getting and Spending*, Blackwell, 1982; (2) HM Treasury, *Economic and Fiscal Strategy report*; (3) Institute for Fiscal Studies, *Green Budget*, January 1998; (4) Office for National Statistics, June 1998 Labour Market Statistics.

Graphics sources: ONS, Economic Trends HMSO; <http://www.bbc.co.uk/budget98/background/coalit.htm>; <http://www.ukpol.co.uk/uktable.htm>

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FinanceGuardian

Bidders line up to grab mutual

Jill Treanor
and Rupert Jones

BIDDERS are lining up to approach Nationwide Building Society, raising the prospect of higher pay-outs for its 4.9 million members if next week's vote ends its mutual status.

Royal Bank of Scotland, NatWest, Lloyds TSB, Prudential and Halifax are among those interested but none of the potential partners is thought to have contacted Brian Davis, the pro-mutual chief executive of the country's biggest building society.

Nationwide, with an 8 per cent share of the mortgage market, is viewed as one of the last remaining prizes in the financial services sector and its fate will be announced on Thursday, July 23.

The society says the vote is too close to call, although City sources regard this with scepticism. This was the response it gave last year just before it comprehensively defeated rebel calls for conversion.

The list of potentially interested parties suggests that the windfalls could exceed the £1,000 payouts predicted by Mr Davis before talk of a bidding war.

One leading banking analyst is valuing Nationwide at £5 billion, the proceeds of which would be shared among members. The price, however, depends on the level of the stock market and, as in auction, the value of the society would rise if a number of institutions showed interest in buying it, so increasing members' windfalls.

Royal Bank of Scotland — which was forced to pull its plans to buy another building society, Birmingham Midshires, yesterday revealed that it would consider a link-up with a building society like the Nationwide.

"If the society did decide to demutualise, as we have made clear, any transaction with a building society would have to have the support of the society's board. We would not enter into a competitive bidding situation and any society would have to be a strategic fit for the Royal Bank," a spokesman for the bank said.

City sources believe Nationwide would meet many of the Royal Bank's criteria; it has the strong branch network in England which the Scottish bank is keen to develop and, as they are roughly the same size, it would be a coming-together of equals.

NatWest, also known to be on the look-out for a way to strengthen its retail presence, is also seen as a potential bidder. It declined to comment yesterday but a City source thought Nationwide would be a valuable tool in helping NatWest boost its troubled image.

NatWest could copy Lloyds TSB which received praise for its merger with Cheltenham & Gloucester, a highly respected brand. Lloyds, with a £1 billion war chest, is also thought to be among the candidates to snap up Nationwide.

"Speculation is that Sir Brian Pittman (chairman of Lloyds TSB) wants to do one last big deal before he leaves," said one City observer.

Another pointed out, however, that the bank is still in the throes of tidying up its recent deal with TSB which may deter another bid at this stage. Lloyds declined to comment.

One mortgage expert said there seemed to be little point in even considering a Nationwide deal until the actual result of the vote is known.

Nationwide said: "We have had no approaches. We would regard any approaches as being premature ahead of the announcement of the result."

Unlike many of the societies which floated on the stock market last year, some believe Nationwide would prefer to link up with an established business rather than go it alone on the stock market.

While Halifax is also linked in speculation, some think that any merger may raise monopoly concerns. Halifax has 19 per cent of the outstanding mortgage market but since its flotation has struggled to replicate that.

Insurance company Prudential, which started a direct banking operation in 1996, has already displayed its appetite for diversification after last year's acquisition of Scottish Amicable, a mutual insurer.

Cash crisis sinks yachtbuilder



WALKER Wingsail Systems, Plymouth's revolutionary yacht-builder, is going into liquidation, writes Geoffrey Gibbs.

The company, whose technology has been picked out as a leading example of

innovative British design for the millennium celebrations, said yesterday it did not have the money to keep going.

Following the loss of 15 jobs in May, the remaining 40-strong workforce has been made redundant.

Trade creditors — thought to be owed around £200,000 — are expected to be paid in full after a sale of company assets.

But it is not known whether there will be any payment to the company's 6,500 small shareholders who

have pumped a total of £13 million into the business.

Walker Wingsail was set up in 1981 by former aircraft engineer John Walker (pictured) and his wife, Jean.

PHOTOGRAPH: MARC HILL

Lloyd's to end late reporting of results

Pauline Springett

LLOYD'S of London will today decide to phase out its 300-year-old system of reporting financial results three years in arrears.

A meeting of Lloyd's market board is expected to recommend the introduction of one-year accounting instead.

The change, understood to have the backing of the insurance market's new reforming chairman, Max Taylor, is part of Lloyd's renaissance following its near collapse a few years ago.

The revamp, spearheaded by Mr Taylor, is designed to propel Lloyd's once again to the forefront of the global insurance market.

The world's top insurers produce their results after one year. Experts think that Lloyd's should follow suit, helping re-establish its credentials as a sophisticated market place using best corporate practice and giving its members the opportunity to compare their performance with their rivals.

The arcane practice of producing accounts three years in arrears dates back to Lloyd's origins as a Lime Street coffee house. Then, shipping and cargo were the most important risks insured and three years were needed to find out whether vessels had returned home safely.

These days such information is instant and Lloyd's insures a vast range of other risks, such as motor cars and aircraft, where the timescales involved are short.

The need to revamp financial accounting in the market has become increasingly urgent since the introduction into Lloyd's of limited liability corporate capital.

The corporate participants now provide 60 per cent of the market's funding. Many of the newcomers are owned by big multinational businesses, which report to their parents on a yearly basis anyway.

Other corporate players are investment vehicles with stock market listings. Potential shareholders are said to have been deterred from buying shares in these trusts because of the three-year accounting system.

Lloyd's market board is expected to recommend that the accounts for 1998 are produced in parallel with those of 1999 when the results are published next spring. Under the present rules, however, results for 1997 will not be produced until 2000.

Although some agencies may not be in a position to comply straight away, at least one underwriting agency managed to produce one-year accounts this year and it is likely others will have been encouraged to do likewise.

Halifax sees house prices edging upward

Rupert Jones

HOUSE prices are likely to continue edging slowly upward, but new figures show marked regional variation.

In London, annual house price inflation is continuing to fall back. But Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland have all seen significant increases.

According to data from the Halifax today, the average price at which homes sold rose by 1.8 per cent in April to June this year compared with the first quarter. Three months ago the quarterly rise was 1.1 per cent. The average house now costs 5.5 per

cent more than a year ago. But Halifax spokesman Gary Marsh said: "Despite these encouraging figures, we believe there is a slowing down in the housing market."

"There has been a fall in the number of property transactions and, compared to activity last year, house-price inflation is falling."

House prices in London rose by 3.2 per cent in the second quarter. Prices in London, at an average of £108,000, are now around 11.8 per cent higher than a year ago. But the rate of increase is falling. At the beginning of last year house prices in London were rising by 17.4 per cent a year.

Prices in Northern Ireland rose by 3.9 per cent in the second quarter, while

Wales saw rises of 2.9 per cent and Scotland 1.7 per cent. Yet property prices in the north of England have stayed more or less flat over the past few months, rising over the past year by just 1 per cent — the lowest annual rate for the region since 1996.

Despite six interest rate rises since May of last year, property prices look set to continue creeping upwards. "Prices are continuing to show small monthly rises and we expect this situation to continue," the Halifax said.

"We expect to see annual house price inflation remain at 5 per cent this year, slowing to around 4 per cent in 1999."

Notebook

Timely appliance to our science



Alex Brummer

AMID the welter of detail which will emerge with today's long-awaited Comprehensive Spending Review no element can be considered more important than the Blair administration's commitment to the science and engineering base. It is one thing to extol the virtues of the nation's creative genius; it is another for Government to back it with generous funding.

This will not just be important for encouraging scientists to remain in Britain; it is also critical if the country is to maintain its competitive edge in important export industries from pharmaceuticals to avionics.

Under the new initiative some £1.1 billion is to be directed at investment in the science and engineering base. The largest slice of this will go towards refurbishing and updating university laboratories where there was serious under-investment during the Tory years.

In keeping with the Government's determination to work with the private sector, this will be jointly funded with the Wellcome Trust.

A further £400 million will be distributed via the research councils for capital projects in the life sciences. In addition, the Wellcome Trust is chipping in a further £100 million to assist in the purchase of a high-intensity X-ray machine, needed for research into the human genome being conducted at Cambridge.

Putting aside the hype and the general obfuscation of the figures which accompanies such Government decisions, the effort to encourage science must be applauded. It marks a sharp change of direction for an economy which has tended to leave too much to the private sector. One reason that the Government was understood to have some reservations about the proposed pharmaceutical mergers earlier this year — particularly one which might have taken SmithKline Beecham abroad — was its concern about the effects on research and development in Britain.

By making its own commitment in this area, it will encourage the universities to carry on their pure research while deepening their links with the commercial sector. Science is too important a part of Britain's future as a high-technology modern economy to be left to the private sector alone.

Countries such as Israel have demonstrated what science-based seed money can do towards economic transformation. In an economy of Britain's size the extra £1.1 billion may not seem enormous — it is less than the research spend of Glaxo-Wellcome alone in any one year. But it is a significant sum.

The company has two other things going for it — control over arguably the strongest brand in the world and a majority owner in Atlanta (holding 51 per cent) of the stock which would, presumably, be around should something go wrong. When Europe has been starved of public offerings, the premium in first-day trading looks well justified.

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Allied shares suspended

SHARES in Allied Carpets, one of the big success stories in the retailing sector over recent years, were suspended yesterday after the company said an accounting problem had been uncovered.

Allied, whose results are due later this month, said its auditors, Arthur Andersen, had discovered a discrepancy relating to how its sales are accounted for.

The company, which came to market in the summer of 1996, normally recognises a sale in its accounts only after the stock has been ordered, has arrived in the store, and has been fully paid for.

It is a policy applauded in the industry — where some sales are accounted for the moment they are recorded by the salesperson — for being particularly conservative.

Explaining the suspension, Allied said the total amount of the "sales recognition error" amounted to more than 3 per cent of annual sales for 1997/98, which are expected by brokers to come in at around £13 million.

However, a spokesman for Allied refused to confirm that the discrepancy had arisen due to fraudulent behaviour by certain employees, who it was claimed — might have booked a sale in expectation of getting a bigger bonus.

He said that, while an investigation was being carried out in Allied's 255 stores, it was too early to say that the problems were down to fraud.

knowledge in Britain, the dividends could be rich for us all in helping to create a high-quality, high-value economy less vulnerable to the vicissitudes of free and open capital markets.

Rouble rescue

THE IMF bail-out of Russia is as important to Europe as is a Japanese recovery plan to Asia. Given the West's strategic commitment to keeping Moscow on a democratic path, and the risks to the German banking and financial system of a rouble collapse, it was always likely that the Fund would step forward. What is perhaps surprising is the size of the overall package — some \$14.8 billion, of which \$12.2 billion comes from the IMF — and the speed with which it will be disbursed.

Under its standby facility, Russia has, until now, had to meet complex economic targets before receiving the cash. The decision to make cash available upfront reflects the scale of a crisis which has seen roubles fleeing the country and forced the government in Moscow to issue bills to foreign investors at crippling rates of interest simply to keep the government up and running.

There appears to be some confidence in the West that the new Prime Minister, Sergei Kiriyenko, is more capable of delivering on far-reaching tax collection and budgetary reforms than his predecessors. Moreover, the new package allows the country to hold off on a rouble devaluation which would have undermined the struggle against inflation.

Oddly enough, while there have been so many complaints about the scale of IMF intervention in East Asia, there seems a broad political consensus that in Russia the stakes are too high to quarrel with a fast-track procedure.

Coke float

DESPITE the concern of City fund managers, the timing of the Coca-Cola Beverages float could not have been better. The unveiling of the Russian rescue package has lifted a shadow over Eastern Europe where the new company will be strong.

CCB was created by spinning off the European operations of Australian bottler Coca-Cola Amatil and putting them together with Italian bottlers. The new company, which is already the leading bottler in central and eastern Europe, plans to use profits to expand into the underdeveloped markets of the Ukraine, Poland and Belarus rather than paying immediate dividends.

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Canada 2.35	India 68.40	New Zealand 3.12	Sweden 12.89
Cyprus 1.54	Ireland 1.546	Norway 12.34	Switzerland 2.58
Denmark 11.03	Israel 6.58	Portugal 282.52	Turkey 424.050
Finland 6.25	Italy 2.846	Saudi Arabia 6.03	USA 1.5818
France 9.537			

Supplied by Reuters (forecasting rates, shares and markets)

Tour de France

Boardman's race is over after heavy fall leaves him unconscious

William Fotheringham in Cork reports on another disastrous end for the Briton

THE Tour de France caravan transferred to Brittany last night leaving Chris Boardman in hospital in Cork after the Briton, who was wearing the yellow jersey of race leader, crashed out 35 miles from the finish.

Boardman's five Tours

1994: Wins prologue and holds yellow jersey for three days, then makes a planned withdrawal.
1995: Crashes in torrential rain in prologue, sustaining multiple fractures of his ankle and a broken wrist.
1996: Makes it to Paris for the first time, finishing 39th.
1997: Wins prologue, beating the eventual winner Jan Ullrich by two seconds. After ending first week third overall, crashes on the descent of the Col du Soudou in the Pyrenees, sustaining back and neck injuries which force his withdrawal after 33 miles of 13th stage.
1998: Boardman plays down his chances of prologue success but shatters the field, taking the yellow jersey by four seconds in a circuit around Dublin. Retains *maillot jaune* after opening stage, but on second stage crashes into a wall and is taken to Cork Hospital with concussion, a deep wound to his left eyebrow and bruising of his left wrist. Kept in overnight under observation.

In the pretty yachting port of Youghal, he lost control of his front wheel and fell heavily, sliding across the tarmac.

He lay prone in the gutter for several minutes before regaining consciousness. "I withdrew him from the race because he seemed dizzy," said the Tour doctor Gerard Forde. His injuries included a deep cut in his eyebrow and bruising on his left wrist. He was given a brain scan, as is routine when riders lose consciousness.

While Boardman was being given first aid, the *peloton* which had spent much of the day meandering through Sean Kelly country with no great sense of urgency — waited for him to regain contact. Instead, Boardman whizzed past his colleagues in the race ambulance. He was to be first into Ireland's second city, but not in the way he would have wanted.

This is the third Tour to end in disaster for Boardman. In 1986 he crashed spectacularly when on course to win the prologue time trial in Saint Brieuc, fracturing his

ankle, and last year fell on a descent in the Pyrenees and twisted his spine. He abandoned three days later in tears.

The last wearer of the *maillot jaune* to crash so heavily that he was unable even to attempt to continue was the legendary accident-prone Spaniard Luis Ocaña, who broke his collarbone in a thunderstorm on a descent in the Pyrenees in 1971. Others, such as the Dane Rolf Sorensen in 1991, at least were able to make it to the stage finish before being forced to quit.

Like many slower stages of the Tour, the bucolic run through counties Waterford, Kilkenny and Tipperary had its nervous moments. The headwind which made the riders one hour late into Cork switched to the side as they reached the coast, and last year's top three finishers, Jan Ullrich, Richard Virenque and Marco Pantani, were all temporarily left behind as the *peloton* split into several parts.

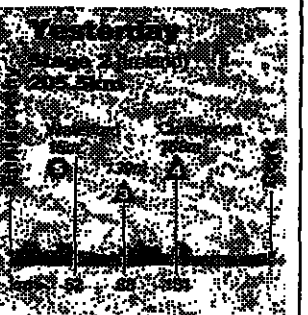
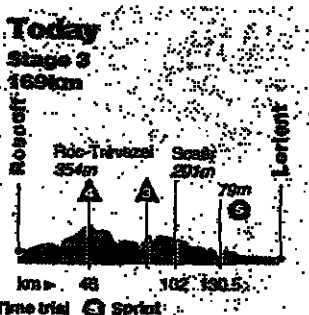
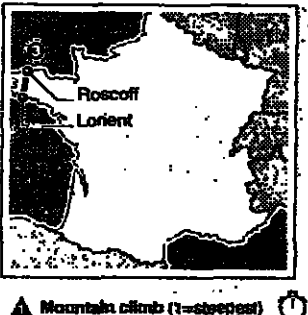
Pantani, who was forced to chase for several kilometres, also rode an appalling prologue time trial on Saturday, and has the look of a man who wishes he was on the beach at his home near Rimini.

After Boardman's spill a

more spectacular but less damaging *chute* split the bunch 64 miles from the finish. This involved about 30 riders, and caused hearts across France to flutter. It involved the country's darling boy Virenque, the national champion Laurent Jalabert, and the world champion Laurent Brochard, who is also French.

All three regained the *peloton* with just a few kilometres to spare, but the tension did not end there for Brochard and Virenque. Both are members of the Festina Watches team, one of whose assistants was arrested last week while apparently conveying a large quantity of banned drugs to the Tour, and no one is sure what ramifications the affair will have once the race returns to France.

The finish on Cork's Carrigrohane Straight was almost an anticlimax, with the Czech national champion Jan Svorace taking the mass finish from the Australian Robbie McEwen and Erik Zabel, the sprint champion for the past two years, his first yellow jersey. Three ferries and three aeroplanes were waiting to take the Tour home to France in drenching winds. It is anyone's guess what the rest of this turbulent Tour has in store.



End of the road... Chris Boardman lies prone in the gutter before being taken to hospital after his crash yesterday

Motor Racing

Mosley denies Ferrari given easy ride

Alan Henry reports on claims that the Silverstone race stewards blundered with Michael Schumacher's on-off stop-go penalty

THE FIA president Max Mosley has vigorously denied claims that Ferrari are being given preferential treatment as they challenge for the Formula One world championship.

The head of the sport's world governing body was reacting to paddock concern that Silverstone race stewards had given the Italian team an unfair advantage by not properly applying the stop-go penalty incurred by Michael Schumacher en route to his controversial victory in Sunday's British Grand Prix.

"Anyone who looks at all the races this year would realise that there is no conspiracy," said Mosley.

"Take the Canadian Grand Prix, where the race was

stopped and restarted. You could say that Schumacher was disadvantaged on this occasion as he was second at the first start and then third at the second. But it is just not the case."

The McLaren team's appeal against the rejection of their protest on behalf of the runner-up Mika Hakkinen is yet to be heard. But already the conspiracy theorists, who claim that Ferrari are being spooned the championship, have identified serious apparent inconsistencies in the timing of events on Sunday.

These critics say there are two key questions that demand answers. Why did it take more than half an hour for Ferrari to be informed of the 10sec penalty in the first

place? And, crucially, why was the penalty at no stage displayed against Schumacher's name on the timing monitors — without which, it has no legal effect?

Schumacher was running third on lap 43 when he lapped Alexander Wurz's sixth-placed Benetton under a "stationary" yellow caution flag (as opposed to a yellow flag being waved vigorously, indicating a serious incident ahead). This incident took place at 3.15pm as the safety car was being deployed to slow the field in heavy rain.

However, the stewards did not get round to deliberating on the matter until 3.38pm and the Ferrari team say they were informed of the decision

to impose a 10sec "time penalty" at 3.46pm.

By this time the race had only three laps to go, and in order to produce a symbolic compliance with the instruction Schumacher came in to take his stop-go penalty on lap 60 just after passing the chequered flag, albeit on the other side of the half-lap wall.

"When the official handed us the document relating to the penalty, he was unable to tell us which rule it referred to," said Jean Todt, Ferrari's sporting director, pointing to an ambiguity over whether the penalty had to be taken during the course of the race or simply be deducted from the driver's final time.

"Because of this doubt we brought Michael in for a stop-go penalty in conformity with the regulation allowing you to make the stop within three laps of its notification."

This course of action by

Ferrari did not seem to be acceptable to officials on the spot, though, as the results initially published indicated that the organisers had subtracted 10sec from Schumacher's elapsed race time, giving him the win by 12sec.

In theory, because the race was not into its final 12 laps at the time of the rule infringement, Schumacher should have been brought into the pits for a 10sec stop-go penalty, a punishment which would have cost him more of his advantage when the "in" and "out" lap are also taken into account.

It is that this was unfair and amounted to preferential treatment to the Ferrari team. What they will want to know in particular is why Schumacher's penalty was not displayed on the monitors, which was the reason the stewards not only rejected the runner-up's protest but finally also rescinded Schumacher's penalty.

FIA insiders concede that the initial evidence points to the race stewards making a major error of judgment in applying the rules, mitigated in part by race control's pre-occupation in monitoring of the safety car's progress slowing the field during the most dangerous period of heavy rain during the middle of the grand prix.

The conspiracy theorists will not be convinced, though it has to be said that if Ferrari are being given special treatment it is being done with a near-unbelievable lack of subtlety.

Sport in brief

Swimming

Mark Foster failed by 0.1sec to reclaim the world 50 metres butterfly short-course record in Sheffield. He achieved 23.45sec in a time-trial to equal his Commonwealth and former world mark set in 1995. Russia's Denis Pankratov swam 23.35sec last year.

Motorcycling

Carl Fogarty was fifth in the first race and retired after 21 laps of the second in the eighth round of the World Superbike Championship at Monterey, California.

Basketball

Milton Keynes have appointed the former London Towers assistant Andre Alleyne as their new coach. Sheffield have resigned their All-Star forward Todd Cantburn.

Ice Hockey

The Great Britain international Nicky Chinn has left Sheffield Steelers "by mutual consent" with one year left on his contract, writes Vic Butcher. Chinn is believed to have rejoined Cardiff.

Tennis

The International Tennis Federation are to experiment with a "no-ad" scoring system over the next two years. The rule, which allows the next point to win a game when the score is deuce, will be introduced in selected Davis Cup and Fed Cup events.

Rugby League

Wales have put the Oldham forward Michael Edwards on standby for the international against Emerging England at Widnes on Sunday, the day he was due to face Batley in the Trans-Pennine Cup final.

Athletics

Double mission for Richardson

Duncan Mackay in Rome

BITISH athletics will find out at the Stadio Olimpico tonight whether Mark Richardson is worth investing his long-term hopes in. The Windsor 400 metres runner, a keen player on the stock market, takes on Michael Johnson in the Golden Gala meeting with the American desperate to avenge his defeat by the Brit last week.

Richardson knows his victory last Thursday is perceived by many on the circuit as a fluke; a win tonight over the Olympic 200m and 400m champion should silence the doubters and boost his chances of taking the £1 million available to any athlete undefeated throughout the new six-meeting Golden League series.

His task in this second meeting should be easier because he will not face the handicap of running in lane one. "I don't think that will ever be a problem again," he said. "I can't wait to race. Bring it on."

The size of Richardson's performance in Oslo, where he ran 44.37sec, can be measured by the fact that it is the fastest run from that lane on any track. The previous best was 30 years ago when the American Ron Freeman ran 44.41 to take bronze at the Mexico City Olympics.

Richardson's time in Oslo was only 0.01 outside the UK record set by Iwan Thomas last year. He believes he is capable of breaking the 44sec barrier tonight.

If he does he will right an injustice that has been a sore point with Britain's one-lap runners. It was on this track in 1987 that the East German Thomas Schonlebe won the World Championships with a European record of 44.83.

Schonlebe's performance has been discredited by the disclosure in Stasi files that he was using performance-enhancing drugs. David Grindley, Roger Black and Thomas would have held the European record had it not been for that assisted performance.

There is an edge to this race with Black, Richardson's training partner, lining up for his first outing in five weeks and Thomas joining as a late entry to give it the flavour of a US v GB meeting.

Many expected Johnson to withdraw after Oslo, where he suffered only his second defeat in nine years. "I can't go out and win every time," he said. "It's been difficult with the injuries and it's races I need rather than training."

Besides Richardson there are 11 athletes who can still win the seven-figure jackpot, including Jonathan Edwards. The Gateshead triple-jumper will again be expected to dominate the event as he chases his 11th victory in 12 competitions this year.

The sins of Schumacher

TWICE world champion and acknowledged as Formula One's ruling genius, Michael Schumacher has a win-at-all-costs streak which has earned him adulation as well as controversy along the way.

1994 British Grand Prix: The German's Benetton overtook Damon Hill's Williams on pre-start parade lap. He is then shown the black-flag signal to come into the pits, ignores it and ends up being disqualified and fined \$25,000 (£15,500).

Benetton later fined \$500,000 for failing to obey instructions of race officials and Schumacher receives two-race ban.

1994 Belgian Grand Prix: Schumacher wins easily and is then disqualified for excessive wear on stopped undertray of car. Benetton claimed this was caused by a spin over the kerb but officials suggest the car was being run too close to the ground to gain aerodynamic advantage.

1995 Belgian Grand Prix: Schumacher wins the race for

Benetton and then receives a one-race ban, suspended for four races, for weaving on the straight in his efforts to keep Hill behind him.

1997 Japanese Grand Prix: Schumacher's Ferrari rams Jacques Villeneuve in the world championship decider but spins off as his rival goes on to win title. Schumacher stripped of runner-up position in the final drivers' standings and required to carry out road-safety promotional work around Europe.



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Faldo strolls the Open course, page 13

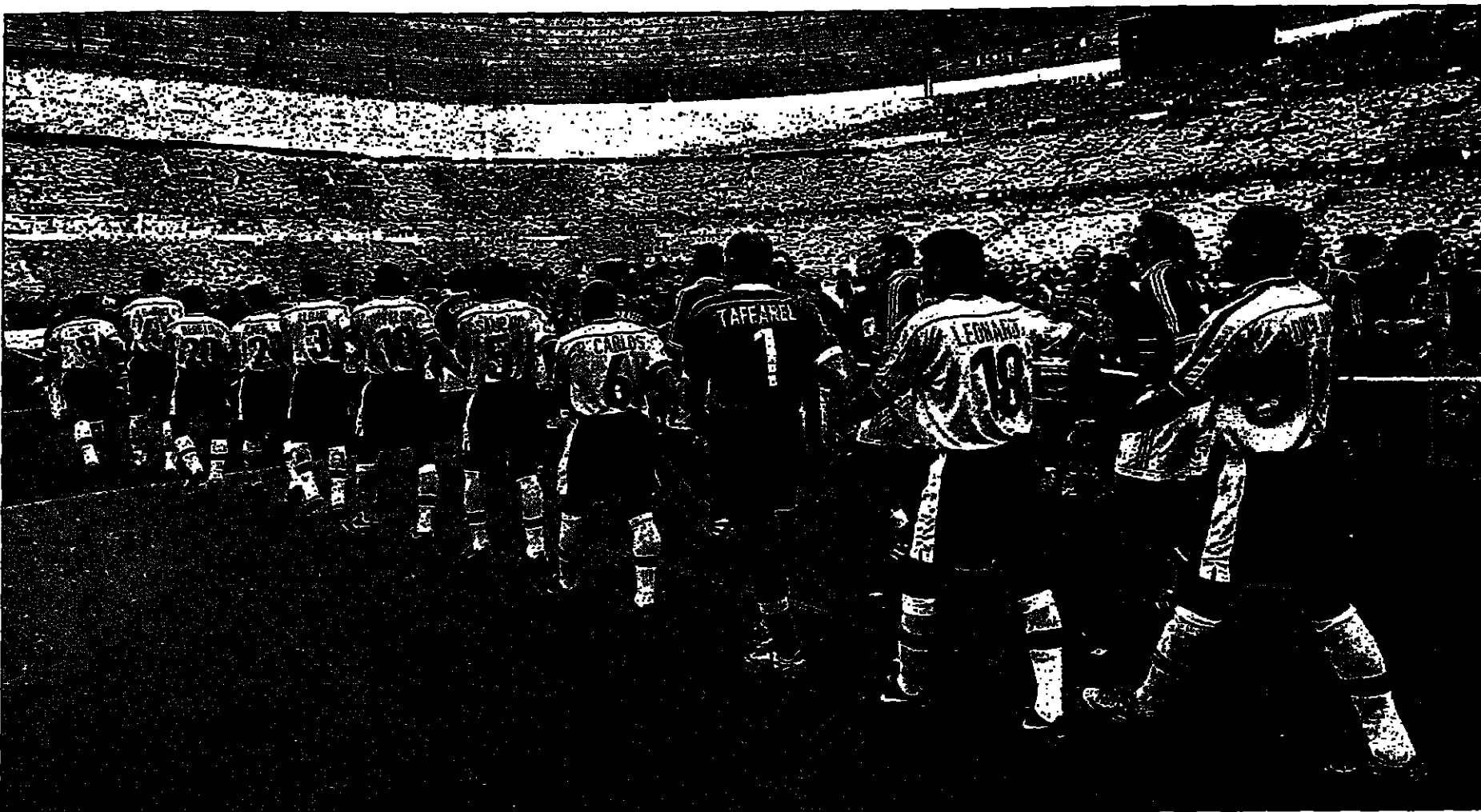
Leicestershire bounce back, page 14

Gunner Wright turns Hammer, page 14

Boardman crashes from the Tour, page 15

SportsGuardian

Brazilian football shaken to its unstable foundations



Hanging in there... Ronaldo, in his usual spot at the back of the line, and his Brazil team-mates only get their first look at the pitch 10 minutes or so before the final. PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

Ronaldo: the 30-minute mystery

Richard Williams in Paris on the movings and shakings that saw the striker omitted — then reinstated — for the World Cup final

THE million and a half French people thronging the Champs-Élysées on Sunday night were not to know it, and would not care if anyone had told them, but for Brazil a long and bitter post-mortem into their World Cup final defeat was only just beginning. Rumours emerged yesterday of fierce pre-match rows inside their camp concerning the fitness of Ronaldo, their 21-year-old star, amid allegations of last-minute interference with the team selection. Originally omitted from their line-up, as issued to the press an hour before kick-off, Ronaldo was reinstated in

place of his apparent replacement Edmundo with barely half an hour to go. There had been stories of knee problems troubling the young forward, and Ronaldo's eventual contribution to the match was marked by a complete absence of the speed and power that normally accompany his technical skills. After the match the Brazil coach, Mario Zagallo, admitted that the other players had been "disturbed" when they learnt of the Ronaldo's possible absence. But he refused to discuss Ronaldo's medical condition, angrily referring reporters to the squad's medical staff. "Ronaldo played be-

cause he played," he said. When questioned further he shouted, "I have my dignity," before storming out of the room.

But almost an hour after the end of the match, a statement was issued from the team's doctor, Lúcio Toledo. "Regarding the health of Ronaldo," Toledo was quoted as saying, "he was not feeling well this afternoon, and now he's better. What happened to him? Quite simply he felt faint, and after that, he went to rest. I stress that he is feeling better now."

Two pieces of paper were the only physical evidence of the cause of the catastrophe that had befallen Ronaldo and Brazil. They were two different versions of the official team sheets, containing the line-ups of Brazil and France as submitted to and ratified by the officials of FIFA.

On the first, printed at 19.48, 1hr 12 min ahead of the kick-off, the name of Ronaldo was to be found in the list of substitutes, replaced in the starting line-up by Edmundo. This list was the first to be issued to journalists, soon after 8pm, and was greeted with general astonishment. Unofficially, journalists were told that Ronaldo was suffering from the effects of an ankle injury picked up in the semi-final against Holland five days earlier.

Soon, however, stories began circulating that Ronaldo would be included after all. And the second list, printed at 20.18, contained his name, with Edmundo back among the substitutes.

Meanwhile, it was noticed that the team had not arrived on the pitch to go through their usual elaborate warm-up routine — a remarkable

break with their standard practice. The France team completed their exercises and left the pitch. With five minutes to go, both teams came out of the tunnel together and lined up for the national anthems, with Ronaldo in his usual place at the end of the Brazil line.

Ronaldo played the full 90 minutes without ever resembling the world's most feared striker. Uncharacteristically ponderous on the turn and slow to strike, he forced France's goalkeeper Fabien Barthez to save in the 21st and 55th minutes, and needed treatment after a heavy collision with Barthez after half an hour, but in general his efforts were smothered by the home defence with an ease which surprised onlookers.

Around Ronaldo, his teammates appeared ill at ease and out of sorts with each other. Before the match had long been over, stories were emerging from the Brazilian camp. Zagallo was said to have fretted long over Ronaldo's condition, eventually making up his mind to leave him out at around 8pm, and informing Edmundo of his inclusion. At the team meeting, he told the shocked players of his decision, and reminded them of the example of the 1962 Brazil team, which lost Pelé, their 21-year-old star, early in the tournament, but went on to win the trophy. Zagallo had been a member of that team.

But then, according to a first report in the Rio daily newspaper O Globo, matters were taken out of Zagallo's hands. According to their report, the coach's selection was countermanded by Ricardo Teixeira, the controversial president of the CBF, the Brazilian football federation.

Teixeira, the son-in-law of Joao Havelange, the outgoing president of Fifa, is said to have reacted to the news of Ronaldo's omission by going to the dressing-room and calling an emergency meeting of the squad's management staff. His nephew, the CBF's general secretary Marco Antonio Teixeira, Zagallo, the turn to page 14, column 1

Racing off with legion of honours



Jim White

WHAT do we do now the World Cup is over? How will we cope with all those hours to fill without football to fill them? Who will be there for us, to mock Jimmy Hill, to pop on his serious glasses and read Kipling in a sombre voice? We, the sans-Desmonds, demand our rights — 12 months of daily football now, brought to us by Britain's favourite television anchorman.

It is all right for the French, while we pursue our favourite pastime — reflecting on what might have been — they can spend the next few weeks savouring the real thing: victory. For a country not used to the winning business, this past week they have proved very good at it in France. Jacques Chirac, for instance, instinctively showed himself a winner when it came to extracting political capital out of tangential events.

Not even Harold Wilson was as shameless in putting footballing success to his advantage as Chirac was when he allowed his way into position last Wednesday to ensure it was him — rather than a player or manager — who was the first interviewee on French television the moment the semi-final was over. And during Sunday's final he had clearly slipped the television director a few francs and the promise of a *Légion d'honneur* to ensure we saw far more of him than of Ronaldo. But as it turned out, we saw more of the stewards manning the exits to Block C than we saw of Ronaldo.

No one in France seemed to notice the president's blatant opportunism. They were too busy taking to the streets in numbers not seen since Général de Gaulle returned with a third-place medal from a previous world competition. At a pavement cafe in the middle of Paris last Wednesday night, I experienced at first hand the French *en fête*. As cars passed by laden with legions of the flag-waving overexcited, as gaggles of chic women with tricolours painted on their cheeks trotted past pursued by lads hoping for a victory snog, the waiter celebrated in the traditional style of Parisian pavement cafes: he charged well over a fiver for a small beer.

Perhaps, though, the French might not wish to linger too long over the fine-print of their victory. Before the competition Diego Maradona, in his position as world football's conspiracy-theorist-in-chief was telling anyone who listened that France 98 had been fixed to ensure victory for the home nation. At first everyone scoffed, assuming this to be little more than the paranoid consequence of his recreational habits.

Until Sunday night that is, when the world was treated to the most strangely uncompetitive World Cup final in history. Brazil looked about as interested in the outcome as some of Frank Bruno's early opponents, with Ronaldo doing a very effective impression of a knobbled race-horse. If Almé Jacquet had fielded someone up front who could score goals, the turn of events would have been embarrassing. Fortunately Stéphane Guvarech, the Karel Poborsky of Tyneside, Kenny Dalglish's latest attempt to cheer up the Gordie nation by employing a comic turn to keep them amused every Saturday, was there to prevent the score looking even more suspect.

TO be fair, the French won't much care about the smears. They are used to doubts about the integrity of their sporting institutions. After all, they are hosts to the Tour de France, a competition which this year set off through Ireland in time-honoured manner: with accusations of drug-taking and the arrest of a team employee allegedly for dealing in performance-enhancing chemicals.

British fans of the Tour, who will be filling those post-Des hours hunkering down in front of Channel 4's nightly coverage, have known for years this race contains an in-built fix to do down the Brits. Once again this year we have seen that the organisers' sneaky insistence on making the competition a three-week marathon rather than a two-day sprint has robbed Britain of a winner. Yesterday, poor Chris Boardman saw the victory which is rightfully his disappear two weeks and six days from the winning post. So when the race is over, and the cyclists have pedalled 3,877 kilometres (2,423 miles) up mountains, down ravines and past half a million Dutch spectators clinging in a great orange swarm to the sides of the Alps, it won't just be Maradona expecting that victory will be once more to a Frenchman. In fact, given the way he has been hovering up winners' medals this year, don't be surprised if the winner turns out to be a relation of Emmanuel Petit.

The hard day's journey into night

3pm: After lunch at Brazil's Chateau de Grande Romaine base camp, Ronaldo feels dizzy and begins to have convulsions. 3.30pm: According to coach Mario Zagallo, Ronaldo goes to a clinic for tests. 4pm: Zagallo gives the team talk to the players, who are shocked that Ronaldo is not there. Zagallo tries to raise their spirits, recalling that in 1962 Brazil won the World Cup without the 21-year-old Pelé. 5pm: The team leaves the camp without Ronaldo. 6pm: On arrival at the stadium, Zagallo signs the team-sheet: Edmundo is in instead of Ronaldo. 7.30pm: Fifa's website, news agencies, and radio and TV stations announce Ronaldo is not playing. 7.48pm: The team-sheet is officially released to press.

8pm: The president of the CBF, Ricardo Teixeira, informed of Ronaldo's absence, goes to check what has happened. 8.10pm: Ronaldo arrives at the stadium by car. He tells Zagallo he is better and wants to play. 8.15pm: A second team-sheet is released with Ronaldo in place of Edmundo. 8.40pm: As the team warm up in the changing-room, the general secretary of the CBF, Marco Antonio Teixeira, afterwards, it is announced that Ronaldo will play. 9pm: Kick-off; France beat Brazil 3-0. All times French local time.

The official teamsheets

Version 1		Version 2	
POSITION DES EQUIPES		POSITION DES EQUIPES	
Match N° 64		Match N° 64	
Finale		Finale	
Brazil (BRA)		Brazil (BRA)	
N°	Nom	N°	Nom
1	TAFAREL	1	TAFAREL
2	CAPI	2	CAPI
3	ALDINI	3	ALDINI
4	JUNIOR BAIANO	4	JUNIOR BAIANO
5	ROBERTO CARLOS	5	ROBERTO CARLOS
6	CEZAR SAMPAYO	6	CEZAR SAMPAYO
7	CLAUDIO	7	CLAUDIO
8	LEONARDO	8	LEONARDO
9	SEBASTIÃO	9	SEBASTIÃO
10	EDMUNDO	10	EDMUNDO
11	ROBERTO	11	ROBERTO
12	DILSON	12	DILSON
13	ANDRE CRUZ	13	ANDRE CRUZ
14	CONCALVES	14	CONCALVES
15	ZE CARLOS	15	ZE CARLOS
16	ZE ROBERTO	16	ZE ROBERTO
17	DEMILSON	17	DEMILSON
18	DOREIA	18	DOREIA
19	EMERSON	19	EMERSON
20	JOVANNI	20	JOVANNI
21	RONALDO	21	RONALDO

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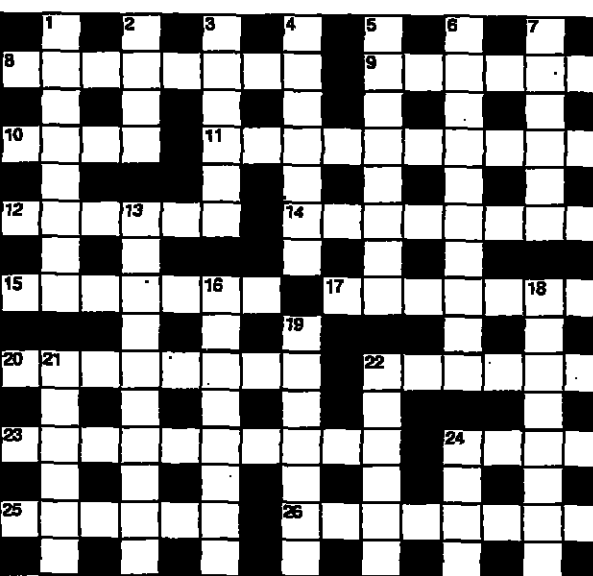
CABLE & WIRELESS

'Kids in the countryside smoke a lot of dope and screw around because drugs and sex are all there is to do'
Linda Grant

G2 page 7

Guardian Crossword No 21,326

Set by Mercury



Across

- 8 Faithful Bill, a man who works for the church (8)
- 9 Approach a meeting place (6)
- 10 First man murdered Jack East and left (4)
- 11 Bird seed joke about to be rejected (10)
- 12 Emperor entering vehicle waves back (6)
- 14 He is imposing upon us (8)
- 15 Further time on vehicle needed by engineer (7)
- 17 One refusing to believe in Castro? (7)
- 20 One struggling to make a living? (8)
- 22 Kind man embraces the Princess Royal (6)
- 23 Trains new man to be harsh (10)
- 24 Problem parking by reservoir (4)

Down

- 1 Blackleg poet carries a sword (8)
- 2 Tug turned up having left Liverpool first (4)
- 3 Flag prohibiting something? (6)
- 4 Beastly cream — one with a lime topping (7)
- 5 Herb, the sailor, needs an organ transplant (8)
- 6 Piano courses in preparation for other instruments (10)
- 7 Office writing-desk (6)
- 13 Drink with lower I abandoned for needleworker (10)
- 16 Gives dates for a loan vehicle to be brought round (8)

18

- Always remove unruly soldiers (8)
- Leave Liberal Party millions (7)
- Laura's callous; a bit of a rogue (6)
- Blend liquid tar in a special mould (6)
- Model in daily paper means to shock (4)

Solution tomorrow

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Recycled paper made up 45% of the newsprint in the first half of 1997.